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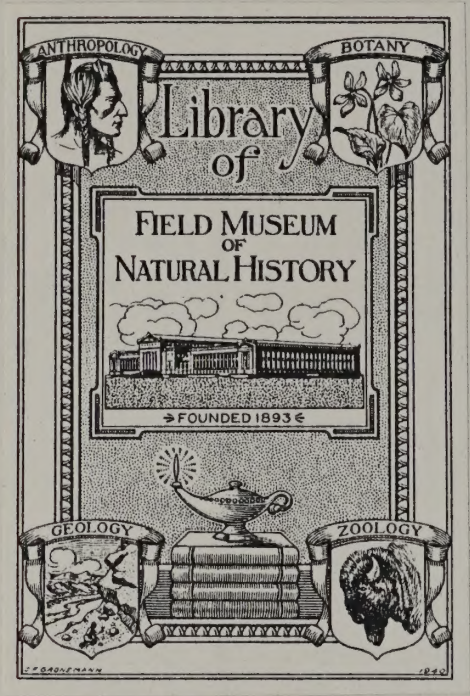

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CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN 1

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NOTICE: COA dues are now due on an annual basis every January 1st for the calander tear, please keep current we know that you do not want to let your membership lapse, and we are too lazy to do all of that all year long Bookkeeping.

With this issue, our first of the COA Bulletin we will try to make several introductions at once. That being the case let's begin with a statement of the projected editorial policy of the Bulletin:-

We feel that our most important purpose should be as a newsletter for our own organization, presenting a quarterly review of the past, present and future activities of COA.

Because of the Geographical dispersion of our membership we shall introduce a system of mail balloting to cover all points to be voted on at our Annual Meeting Business Sessions, these will appear in time to be mailed back to the Secretary, who will cast those votes at the meeting.

Since many of our members do not have at their fingertips large and extensive libraries, we intend to review all new books and publications in the Malacological field, and on some occasions even older ones, in order that individual members and clubs may procure those books etc. which will best serve their purposes, without depleting budgets on less useful items.

We wish to present articles by all of our members, particularly, those concerned with observations, field trips, field notes, methods of curating (that's a very elegant word which really means putting things away so that they can be located in a reasonable time, and so that one will have some understanding of what one has when it's found), methods of preparing displays, and cleaning one's catch. Please don't feel shy or embarassed because you're not an Irving Wallace or a Henry Pilsbry, send your articles to the editor in your own words -- tell us all just as you would tell someone over a cup of coffee after the local shell club meeting, and we'll all enjoy it and benefit from it.

We will try to present some information about shell club activities around the country, especially as many of us travel about a great deal it might be that our visit to an area would coincide with a meeting of the local shell club, and it's always great fun to meet new members of the legion of the "Shell Shocked".

Now just a short statement about what the Bulletin is not and Should Never become. We will not publish descriptions of or advance notice of new species or other taxa, by whomever described, Veliger, Nautilus etc., are more appropriate to this. We will not reprint any material from other publications without crediting the original source and NEVER without specific permission to reprint. We shall not carry any articles about shellcraft, innacurate or downright silly material because the author has not reached voting age (negative age snobbism is out of place in any publication not devoted to that particular genre) and as a special example of your editor's own prejudices - NO POETRY by people who do not have an understanding of meter, scansion, or the English Language as defined by the editor's own rather narrow view of it!

The foregoing will tell you what to expect from future issues of this Bulletin, and, now let me introduce myself; I'm Frank Nelson, book and shell collector, interested in archaeogastropoda, Volutidae, Molluscan Paleontology, good food, Anthony Trollope and his writings, Oriental Art, Linguistics, the Human Condition, and a football NUT! also self appointed guardian of the art of Poetry in the English Language.

Send your letters and articles to me at 95-24 110th Street, Richmond Hill, New York 11419 -- please keep the letters and articles coming in, we need them, and you must realize that this is your paper and it is the responsibility of all of us to keep it alive and growing. Keep in mind that an editor is just the Human extension of his paste-pot and shears.

"In search of the elusive Haliotis walallensis"
by Robert McMillen and John Phillips

Having been a commercial abalone diver for 13 years I have become extremely familiar with the habits of the various species of Haliotis living in our Southern California waters. Perhaps the rarest of our local Abalone is the Flat Abalone (Haliotis walallensis, Stearns 1899), and this species is generally collected north of Point Arguello; however,I have found a few specimens in deep-water (70 feet plus) off Jalama State Park (Between Point Concepcion and Point Arguello), Point Concepcion, and at Coho Anchorage (just south of Point Concepcion). This abalone seems to be very shy and spends it's entire life clinging to the undersides of large, flat boulders and sometimes under ledges on rock reefs; it is extremely rare on the tops of rocks or reefs. The Flat Abalone is a comparitively gregarious species, in that you will generally find 6 to 12 specimens living together under a good sized boulder. Its food seems to consist of dead drift kelpthat finds its way under the boulders or ledges via currents or wave action. It is definately one of the world's most beautiful Abalone, as it comes in a variety of striking colors and the external surface of the body whorl is highly imbricated, thus giving it a scaly appearance. Marine boring worms delight in attacking this species, and the larger specimens of Haliotis walallensis will almost always be eaten away in the spire area by these worms. The shell itself of Haliotis walallensis is not so sturdy as that of the other local Abalones and special care should be taken when cleaning this species, especially when you are using a strong bleach solution for the loosneing of marine encrustations. If they are left in a bleach solution for much longer than one hour the shell begins topeel off in layers in the internal nacre; the external shell will also develop a chalky, crumbling appearance and in some cases the complete shell can be crushed and ground into a dust with pressure from a closed fist.

I have spent many years diving our offshore Channel Islands, and I have never collected Haliotis walallensis untill just recently (November 1970) when I found it living in 80 feet of water, under large, flat boulders off Talcott Shoals, on the inside of Santa Rosa Island; and also in 110 feet of water, under large, flat boulders, off Tyler's Bight, on the seaward side of San Miguel Island. Out of 40 specimens collected in both localities the largest specimen measured 4 3/8 inches in length and the majority of the shells were between 2½ and 3 inches in length. The largest coastal specimen collected was taken by myself in 70-80 feet of water off Jalama State Park; it measured 5 3/4 inches. Maximum size on this species is probably 6 in.

In closing I would like to state that it is extremely important when collecting Haliotis walallensis for you the collector, to always return the boulders you have overturned back to their original position on the bottom; this insures no environmental change for marine life on or beneath the boulder.

(I can only say that the last paragraph should be a guide to the behavior of all of us when collecting. Ed.)

For those members who have not attended any of the COA Annual meetings we are including in the first edition of our Bulletin The Constitution and the By-Laws of the Conchologists of America, this is done for several reasons, not the least of which is to make you aware of the aims, goals, and rules of COA, and to make it possible for those of you not able to attend a meeting to vote intelligently, or to present motions for the business meetings in absentia.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA

ARTICLE I : NAME AND PURPOSE.

The name of this organization shall be the Conchologists of America. Its purpose shall be to unite shell collectors and clubs in the United States and promote conservation and interest in shell collecting. The emphasis of this organization shall be on CONCHOLOGY rather than on Malacology.

ARTICLE II : MEMBERS

Any person interested in Mollusca may become a member.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS.

The officers of the Club shall be: President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. This group, plus the immediate past President, forming the Executive Committee, shall make provisions for meetings of the organization. Besides the traditional duties of the office, the Secretary-Treasurer shall submit a report at the annual meeting consisting of the yearly business and financial transactions.

ARTICLE IV : ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

All officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting to serve for the ensuing year.

At the annual meeting, the presiding officer shall appoint a Nominating committee of three members to report nominations at that meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the time of the committee report.

ARTICLE V : ANNUAL MEETING.

The time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be designated each year by the incoming Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI : DUES.

There shall be annual dues of such sum as the By-laws may from time to time provide. They hsall be payable in advance.

ARTICLE VII: BY-LAWS

By-laws may be proposed at the annual meeting by the executive committee, or by motion from the floor. Their adoption will be by the majority of members in attendance at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION.

The constitution may be ammended at the annual meeting, by a two-thirds vote of those in attendance at the annual meeting.

COMPARISON OF THE CONSTITUTIONS OF VENICE

VENICE I : A MAN AND A KING.

The name of this orientation spirit of the constitutions of Venice
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tation spirit of the spirit collection and tutelary in the spirit collection.
Prince consideration and tutelary in spirit collection. Ignorance of
tation spirit of the CONSTITUTIONS venice. Rank of Metaphysics.

VENICE II : A MEANING

Van Dermen interpretation of Politics and Factors a Method.

VENICE III: OBEDIENCE.

The criticism of the city spirit and transport, after transport and Decision-
Ola-Transport. Since Rhodo, Dine the immediate body transport, including the Executive
Constitution, spirit make variations for measure of the organization. Between the
Transition of the city, the Decision-Transport, the Decision-
Transition of the Office. The Decision-Transport spirit spirit a Legal
of the spirit Method Transformations and Linguistic Transformations.

VENICE IV : DIRECTION OF OBEDIENCE.

All citizens spirit be sign of Decision of the spirit Method to Value
of the spirit Method Transformation of Decision of Obedience.

VENICE V : EVERY MAN A KING.

The name of this orientation spirit of the constitutions of Venice.
Ita Princes spirit of the spirit collection and state in the United States and
Prince consideration and tutelary in spirit collection. The experts of this orien-
tation spirit of the CONSTITUTIONS venice. Rank of Metaphysics.

BY-LAWS

1. The organization shall meet annually to receive reports of the officers for the past year, elect and install officers for the ensuing year and transact any other business that may arise.

2. A news letter shall be sent periodically to members covering club activities, and for the exchange of thoughts, ideas and experiences in the field of Conchology.

3. Dues shall be two dollars annually.

4. A quorum shall consist of five members, the executive officers or their representatives and those members in attendance at the annual meeting.

The dues article is open to annual review, at the June 1973 meeting it was voted that the dues for the year 1973-74 would be Three Dollars, dues will be payable on Jan. 1st of each year. Subsequently the dues provision will be an article of business at each annual meeting.

As we noted above there have been several other thoughts regarding the rules and regulations of the club that have been discussed from time to time, and part of the introduction to this first issue was devoted to that.

We also acknowledge that the constitution above does not have vast amounts of Legalese language about it, not one single word of Latin, not too many words of English, and is really intended to be an organizing document open to revision as time goes on to meet the needs of a growing organization. Please let us know what your thoughts about it, have we omitted any points that you feel should have been made part of it, or did we not cover anything well enough, or too well. Keep us informed.

********** TREASURER'S REPORT , April 30th 1973 **********

RECEIPTS :			
	Memberships	Individual	141
		Clubs	5
	Clubs with Membership as of April 30, 1973 are:		
	Argonaut Trail Shell Club		
	Conchological Section of Buffalo Museum of Science		
	Chico Shell Club		
	Greater St. Louis Shell Club		
	Northern California Malacozoological Club.		
			146 @ $2.00= $ 292.00
EXPENSES :			
	Membership Cards	$ 40.00	
	Printing	35.84	
	Stamps	48.00	
	Supplies	5.55	
		$129.30	-129.39
BALANCE :			$162.61

Respectfully Submitted
Dorothy Janowsky, Secretary/Treasurer

A Report of the 1973 Convention , by our President Mr. Kirk Anders.

The delightfully British Bahamas was the setting for the 1973 convention for the Conchologists of America. Although it wsa wrought with small disasters (such as the huge ocean liner we were scheduled to hold the convention on - blowing up, just small things like that).

After all was said and done, we flew over to Freeport and held our convention in the modern and very nice Hotel right next to the International Bazaar and the largest Casino in the Western Hemisphere.

Organizational Meetings and cocktail parties were the order of the day, and everyone got to know everyone else. Parties were slipped in whenever possible, between meetings, parties at the beach, shelling, etc., etc.. Papers were presented, slide lectures entertained everyone, and we had a most successful shell Auction, to raise badly needed funds. New organizations need time to grow and develop, and make small errors along the way, but, for being so young, EVERYONE really had a wonderful time, and the misfortunes were shoved into the background, and the good predominated.

I wish to thank the attending membership for voteing me President for the 1973-74 period. I'm also happy to note that the selection for our 1974 convention is close to my home town of Seattle. I'm looking forward to seeing many more people at this convention, and know that it will be even more successful than last. See uoy there!

****

Minutes of the Second Conchologists of America Convention

The second convention of the Conchologists of America, held at the Castaways Hotel in Freeport, Bahamas, officially opened at 10:00AM on May 12th 1973 with the start of our first business meeting, 26 members were present.

In her introductory remarks our President Bette Rachlin briefly outlined the background of our organization and the details of its formation in October 1972. The idea of a nation wide organization devoted to the interests of the shell collector was conceived many years ago by John Paduano, an avid collector who resides in Newport, Rhode Island. Last year he was able to see this idea become a reality as he hosted the initial convention of COA. His regrets were conveyed that he was unable to attend this year's convention because of poor health. Mrs. Rachlin also spoke of the purpose of COA, which is to encourage the exchange of ideas and information among conchologists and to promote conservation, both in our own collecting habits and on a larger scale.

The minutes of last year's meeting were read and accepted. The treasurer's report was given and accepted with the suggestion that member shell clubs be listed.

A report on the progress of the Constitutional Committee was given by Carl Erickson. He presented the draft of the Constitution and By-laws which was discussed and, with minor changes was accepted unanimously.

A motion was made to increase dues in order to compensate for the higher costs of printing and postage. It was voted to raise the dues to $3.00 per year as of Jan. 1st 1974, and to have all dues payable on January 1st of each year.

In order that we might become better acquainted with each other, the members then individually introduced themselves to the group, giving a brief account of his or her interests and introduction to shell collecting.

A nominating committee for officers for 1973-1974 was called for. Volunteers

Margaret Teskey, Arthur Merrill, and Edith Oetzell were requested to prepare a slate to be presented at the next day's meeting.

Having concluded all old and new business, Mrs. Rachlin then turned the floor over to Kirk Anders who had several slide presentations and papers planned for the remainder of the meeting. To start the program Kirk showed a series of slides taken at the first COA Convention. Scenes of us shivering our way along the beach in Rhode Island brought back many pleasant memories, but also made some of us look forward even more to the warm Bahamian waters. Views of some of Newport's magnificent mansions were shown and there were many group shots of our founding members, all but one of whom were present at this year's convention.

A fascinating paper on the Cypraeidae of South Africa was presented by Robert Morrison. He spoke primarily of the newlynamed Cypraea cruikshanki, Kilburn, and had a specimen of this rare and unusual cowrie with him for all to admire.

The final presentation of the day was " Shelling in Bonaire " a slide lecture by Kirk Anders and Gary Magnotte. They took us on a whirlwind tour of this small island in the Netherlands Antilles, showing fascinating shots of the vegitation, the animal life, and the shells they collected.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 12:30PM.

Sunday's business meeting was opened by our President at 10:00 AM and then turned over to Kirk Anders who showed slides of a shelling tour he had conducted to Glover's Reef, British Honduras, Cymatium parthenopium, Cassis flammea, Cyphoma gibbosum, Strombus gallus, and Conus regius were only a few of the numerous species which were collected during this adventure.

The nominating committee then presented their slate of officers for the following year, which was accepted and voted upon. The new officers for 1973-1974 are:

President	Kirk Anders
Vice President	Carl Erickson
Secretary/Treasurer	Dorothy Janowsky

The shell auction, which we had sll been eagerly anticipating, climaxed the day's meeting. Donated by members and by shell dealers in this country and abroad, the shells were of excellent quality and species representing many different families were available, Cypraea tigris schilderiana, Cypraea stercoraria rattus, Voluta kaneko, and Murex foliatus were only a few of the many specimens which caused spirited bidding by everyone. The total "take" of the auction increased our treasury by $185.50.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30PM.

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Conchologists of America 1974 Convention, Seattle Washington
June 13,14,15,16, 1974

June 13 9:00 to 11:00AM Registration, Edgewater Inn on the Seattle Waterfront.

June 13 1:00 to 4:30PM Opening Session, Greetings, Coffee Break, Papers.

June 13 Evening- Social get-together, No-host Cocktail Hour and dinner at the Edgewater.

June 14 General session starts at 9:30AM with coffee breaks and lunch scheduled. 4:30 conclusion of first full day of papers.

June 14 Evening Cocktail Hour, Banquet, and ----- SHELL AUCTION!!!!!!!

June 15 9:30AM to noon, Final session of papers and business meeting. Afternoon will be free for tours of Seattle etc. That evening an optional trip to Blake Island is scheduled aboard a cruise boat for viewing the Indian villiage there seeing Indian dances and partaking of the Indian Salmon Bake for dinner, all authentic Northwest Indians and food.

June 16 Morning bus tour, cross Puget Sound by ferry to Bremerton to see the U.S.S. Missouri, and lunch at the Hearthside Restaurant. Then to Port Gamble to visit the Of Sea and Shore Museum of Shells and Marine Life, on the way back to Seattle we'll visit the North Kitsap marine Environmental Center to view live local marine life.

June 17 thru 19th A collecting trip is scheduled. This will include the famous Victoria Breakwater on Vancouver Island, Padilla Bay, and other locations in Washington, and British Columbia. Tom Rice has planned the whole thing and it looks as though he's pulled out all of the stops to do it RIGHT!

All of the costs have not been finalized as yet, though the rates at the Edgewater Inn are $24.00 waterside (double), $19.00 (single); cityside rates are $19.50 and $15.50. Cost of the Sunday bus trip to Port Gamble including lunch will be about $10.00 per person. Other rates and the collecting trip costs will be available soon.

For all of the details contact Thomas C. Rice at Of Sea and Shore Magazine, Port Gamble, Washington 98364.

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Please don't forget that this is your paper,and we need all of you to help it grow, and become the kind of paper we'd all like to really be proud of. Get your thoughts together and send papers,notes, bookreviews and anything relating to shells and shelling that you feel the rest of us would like to hear about and learn from.

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN 2

Time has come around again for another issue of the Bulletin to get put together, and regretfully there has not been very much material submitted.

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Helpful Hints on Collecting and Cleaning Pteropurpura macropterus and Pteropurpura vokesae.	John Phillips	P. 6

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----- EDITORIAL -----

Several letters have come in asking about books, publications, etc.,and it strikes me that the list of books for sale which is included in Tom Rice's " Of Sea and Shore " magazine does a good job of keeping everyone posted about books currently on the dealers shelves which might be of interest to shell collectors, and since he also reviews the books that he offers for sale this should be an adequate coverage of books in print at any given time. I don't want this to sound as though I'm running an advertisement for one bookdealer to the detriment of any other one, but Tom is a member of our organization and is probably better known to more of the membership than any other book seller that I could name. I thought that because of this, it might be of more value to our readers to make them aware of some of the other sources of publications not the normally used book stores. In the section called " The Bookshelf " which I shall try to make a regular feature is a sampling of several of the places from which books of interest can be ordered.

Arthur S. Merrill and John W. Ropes have submitted the article below on Commercial Shellfisheries which I hope will be the first in a series which will serve to put into perspective for all of us the interplay between those populations which form the total ecosystem which is our planet.

I had thought to write a rather longer editorial to kick-off each issue of the Bulletin, and particularly so since so little material had been submitted, but, my wife up-staged me with the following:

" Today's increase in both leisure time and affluence seems to be turning an ever larger segment of our population into collectors ----- collectors of stamps, coins, books, buttons, and baubles. Just name it and, somewhere, there is a collector eagerly waiting to add it to his collection. When one considers the number and diversity of active collectors, one must also wonder how trash disposal ever came to be a problem. But to each collector, whatever the intrinsic value (or lack of it) of his chosen specialty, each item is a treasure.

Nearly all collectors, be they collectors of pre-Columbian artifacts or comic books, have certain traits in common, In addition to the obvious desire to have the biggest, the most valuable, or the most complete collection possible, they seem also to turn a remarkably deaf ear and a blind eye to anything not directly

within their own sphere of interest. Ordinarilly this doesn't pose too serious a problem. A stamp collector seldom finds the need to put his collection into focus with anything more esoteric than his checkbook, or relate it to anything more elusive than the collection of "That guy down the block". He can happily pursue his hobby, limited only by the time and effort he wants to expend and the funds available to him.

Likewise, nearly all collectors have certain problems in common, such as display facilities and space in which to house "the collection". But few collecting hobbies carry with them the degree of moral responsibility that shell collecting demands. All serious shell collectors have, I'm sure, at one time or another, been exposed to the Code of Ethics, Rules for Collectors, or whatever label that particular author has put on it. And I'm equally confident that all serious collectors observe these rules quite faithfully and consistantly. It is, after all, in the best interests of shell collecting generally for all of us to do so. But I wonder how many dedicated collectors, who wouldn't think of collecting endangered, immature, or damaged specimens, or of leaving a collecting area in shambles, would just as faithfully adorn their wives with leopard skin coats or alligator bags if they could circumvent the law.

Shell collectors as a group, have been very dedicated and forceful in supporting projects to save the wetlands, pervent beach erosion, establish seashore parks, protect endangered species and promote meaningful legislation for the preservation of intertidal zones. These areas are all related, to some degree, to our special interest in shell collecting. But conchology is not an isolated field, Mollusks are only one small part of a huge, inter-related biological tree that, at the moment, has far too many weak limbs.

Careful observation of life in any defined area, wether it be a coral reef, a corn field, a small pond, or a jungle, will show the interdependance of both plants and animals on eachother for continued existance. The eradication of a single species, however ugly, distasteful, or preditory, can start a chain reaction that may seriously and irreversibly change the biological balance.

Hopefully, shell collectors will find the time and inclination to view their interest in shells in relation to the total ecological picture and support not only those areas of conservation pertaining directly to mollusks, but to support all worthwhile conservation measures. We can protect and enjoy a species that is not endangered, and we can try to revive an endangered one. But once a species is beyond reviving or totally extinct, we can only wish that we had had more foresight. Today we have a fighting chance to save the whooping crane, the peregrene falcon, and certain of the great whales. Tomorrow it could be Strombus pugilis or Voluta musica."

Lee Nelson

IMOPRTANT EDIBLE MOLLUSKS OF THE UNITED STATES

Arthur S. Merrill and John W. Ropes *

A serious study of malacology often begins for both the professional and amateur alike by collecting and identifying the many available mollusks within a local area. An interest develops and new species become less easilly acquired, the student widens the area of search to include world-wide specimens or a more concentrated effort is made to observe the complex biology of a few species. The latter course sometimes brings the student face to face with the fact that some species have a very important value as food for man. In many countries, the number of food species are relatively few but they often attain a large size and are sufficiently abundant to warrent commercial exploitation.

A variety of molluscan shellfish are utilized for food world-wide. In Table 1, we have separated the world molluscan catch into major categories and included the portion of the catch taken by countries that dominate in particular fisheries. In just two categories, Japan and the United States caught nearly half of the 3.12

million metric tons of world molluscans in 1967. Japan's catch was made up of a wide variety of molluscan shell fish; its take equalled over 75% of the world catch of squid, octopus, freshwater clams, conchs, whelks, etc. The United States ranked second in the dominance category, taking about half of the world's catch of bivalved mollusks, such as clams, oysters, and scallops. Other countries have a dominance for special species that occur near their shores.

Landings are greater on the east coast of the United States than on the west coast. This is due in large part to extensive estuaries, such as the Chesapeake Bay system, and the broad continental shelves found on the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico. During 1965-69, an annual average of 143 million pounds of bivalved mollusks were the nation's harvest; over 90% of this total was taken from the east coast (Table 2)

Several marine pelecypods inhabit the east coast and have been used for food since colonial days. Five species are harvested by important fisheries: the oyster (Crassostrea virginica); the surf clam (Spisula solidissima); the sea scallop (Placopecten magellanicus); the northern hard-shell clam or quahog (Mercenaria mercenaria); and the soft-shell clam (Mya arenaria). Minor fisheries exist for: the southern hard-shell clam (Mercenaria campechiensis); the ocean quahog (Arctica islandica); the bay scallop (Argopecten irradians); the calico scallop (Argopecten gibbus); the blue mussel (Mytilus edulis); the sunray clam (Macrocallista nimbosa); and the razor clam (Ensis directus). Gastropods, such as the queen conch (Strombus gigas); whelks (Busycon carica and B. canaliculatum); and the periwinkle (Littorina littorea), are harvested but are generally of minor and local significance. Some of the minor species of clams and snails have the potential to become commercially important in the future.

On the west coast, landings of oysters are mostly of the Japanese species, Ostrea gigas ; it is imported as seed and intensively cultured. The native Olympic oyster, Ostrea lurida ; is of local importance, as is the eastern oyster C. virginica, which was introduced in the late 1800's. Several other species of bivalves used for food are: the razor clam (Siliqua patula); the pismo clam (Tivela stultorum); the butter clam (Saxidomus nuttalli and S. giganteus); the little neck clam (Prototheca staminea); the Manila clam (Tapes philippinarum); the cockle (Clinocardium nuttalli); the horse clam (Schizothaerus nuttalli); the soft-shell clam (M.arenaria)(introduced from the east coast); and others.

Sport digging for edible bivalves has become an increasingly important recreation. Several of the west coast species are taken this way, as are a few on the east coast, particularly in areas catering to summer tourists. The pressure from sport ans commercial fishing of bivalves has necessitated formulating State regulations to manage the fisheries. The intent of these regulations is to insure continued future use of the bivalve stocks and to eliminate possible health hazards from eating bivalves living in contaminated coastal waters.

Molluscan shellfish fisheries are unique in that each one has its own individual methods of operation. The manner in which the particular mollusk is harvested, where it is most abundant, and the facts on the biology are topics of general interest. Much is known about some of the fisheries, but much more remains to be learned to effectively manage them for maximum utilization of the valuable natural resource.

(See Page 4 for Tables # 1 and 2)

* NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE,
MIDDLE ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES CENTER,
OXFORD, MARYLAND 21654

Editors Note: The foregoing article is the first of what I hope will become a series contributed by Messers Merrill and Ropes on Commercial Shellfisheries. Perhaps they will serve to put into perspective for us all the interplay between populations in the total platetary ecosystem.

Table 1. World Molluscan Shellfish Catch --1967

Arranged According to Production with Dominant Country and Catch [a] (in Metric Tons Live Weight)

Species	World Catch	Dominant Country and Catch	
Squid, octopus, freshwater clams, conchs, whelks, etc	952,000	Japan	728,500
Oyster, clam, scallpo	1,390,000	United States	654,400
Mussel	273,000	Netherlands	85,600
Cockle, arkshell	103,000	Malaysia	53,800
Cuttlefish	60,000	Spain	16,900
Winkle	4,000	Ireland	2,000
Miscellaneous	338,000		
Total World Catch	3,120,000 metric tons (= 6.9 billion pounds)		

[a]Source: FAO. 1969. Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, Catches and Landings - 1968 Vol. 26, 318p.

Table 2. Average Annual Landings of Five Major Molluscan Shellfish in the United States, 1965 - 69

	Thousands of Pounds of Shucked Meats	
	East Coast	West Coast
Oyster	48,106	7,890
Surf clam	44,646	-
Sea scallop	13,868	1,825
Hard-shell clam	12,665	3,042[b]
Soft-shell clam	11,271	

b Includes several species of clams not separated in statistical digests

THE BOOKSHELF

Several letters have come in asking about books, publications, etc. It strikes me that the list of current publications which is included in Tom Rice's "Of Sea and Shore" magazine does a generally good job of keeping everyone posted as to the books in print which might be of interest to the average collector, and he also reviews the latest regular books that come his way. I do not wish this to sound as though I'm running a specific advertisement for one bookdealer to the detriment of another one, but, Tom is a member of our organization and is probably known to more members than any other bookseller that I might care to name. That long and rambling preamble leads to the point, I thought that it might be of some value to make mention of all of the other kinds of sources of books, reprints, separates etc. than the normally used book stores. Each issue I shall have a little more to suggest regarding various means of building up a library.

UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS
300 NORTH ZEEB ROAD
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48106

Has for sale a number of reprints of works that are very hard to find, if not downright impossible, through the normal "out-of-print" sources, for example:

BAKER, F.C.
A Naturalist in Mexico, being a visit to Cuba, northern Yucatan, and Mexico.
1895, 182 pp $ 9.10

GOODRICH, CALVIN
The Mollusca of Michigan.
1932, 140 pp $ 7.00

KEEN, A. MYRA, and DOTY, CHARLOTTE L.
An Annotated Checklist of the Gastropods of Cape Arago, Oregon.
c 1942, 17 pp $ 6.00

MacGINITIE, GEORGE E.
Distribution and Ecology of the Marine Invertebrates of Point Barrow, Alaska.
1955, 213 pp $10.65

VAN DER SCHALIE, HENRY
The Land and Fresh-water Mollusks of Puerto Rico.
1948, 166 pp $ 8.30

The above is just a sampling of the titles available, they run, as you can see, at the rate of $0.05 per page with a minimum of $6.00 per volume. They also have a service which will provide these titles and others on their list in regular hard library bindings, for a slight extra charge.

Another source of publications (these are not reprints) is:
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI PRESS
DRAWER 9088,
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33124

Who have issued a number of specific items in a series of "Marine Science Publications" and also a quarterly "Bulletin of Marine Science", which deals primarilly with topics relating to tropical and subtropical waters. They have also begun a projected series "Fauna Caribaea", which will deal with the marine and terrestrial animals of the Caribbean area. The "Fauna Caribaea" will be a series of handbooks with illustrated keys. In the "Studies in Tropical Oceanography" they have already issued:

No. 6 : AMERICAN OPISTHOBRANCH MOLLUSKS
By Eveline Marcus and Ernst Marcus
1968 viii, 256 pp illus. $10.00

Future issues will bring more of this kind of report on what's available in the reprint and specialty publishing fields, and we are working also on a possible article on the Microforms field which may be the library resource of the future.

NIGHT SHELLING AT SOUTH BIMINI

Lt Col Corinne E. Edwards USAF

On the little sand bars close by the Sunshine Inn, between rocks, dock and channel, Cynthia Flockelman once found several Pyramidella dolabrata on a night shelling trip. In April, four Ft. Myers shell club members were at Bimini (me too), 2 A.M., on a dark, no-moon night, armed with flashlights, searching for that Atlantic pyram. It is listed as common in the West Indies and we find them, shiny and brownlined in the beach drift at Bimini. We saw Terebra hastata, and dislocata, Oliva reticularis and the six holed sand dollar all over the sand flats that night, but no pyram.

Who wants to go back to bed at 3 A.M. on a lovely warm night? Curiosity led me to have a look along the other side of the rock jetty. There I was, without a thin-bladed knife, when I discovered Chiton viridis, a variably-colored snakeskin-girdled chiton, out in force, on the wave washed rocks. However, I did not go back empty handed. The others had wanted Cittarium pica, but the great four-inch ones down in the depths in front of the I nn are old, pitted, rusty and eroded. Here good-sized and clean the

West Indian top shell or magpie, was also on the move. I easily picked off more than a dozen without chipping a single black-edged pearly lip. The operculum is a fascinating bit of nature ----- take a look at it.

The next night at 2:30 A.M. we went out to those rocks for chitons. A friend of Laverne's had furnished a jar of alcohol and asked her for Acanthopleura granulata to trade with, but here was a bonanza. With someone to hold the light while I wielded the knife, we got Chiton viridis for him and some for ourselves. This chiton is ever so easy to remove from the rocks without damaging the girdle, as it is out moving at night. The valves are very white inside this mollusk, if it is disarticulated, the valves kept in order and carefully glued back together.

There was more, on this second night shelling venture. Shining white in my flashlight beam,I saw an Epitonium lamellosum. This sizeable wentletrap was out alone on a big black rock. It was actively turning and twisting its shell as if it did not like to be in bright light. I took it and the others exclamed over my find. Then my light picked out a fat greenish anemone and there was another Epitonium lamrllosum feeding on it.

I could see the long thin proboscis inserted below the tentacles into the smooth fleshy side of the anemone. We all searched for more and ruefully remembered all the great blue-green anemones out at the deep end of the rock jetty. If only we dared to navigate the rocks and fire coral and urchins, but weak flashlights and deeper water were too much. Do Epitonium come out at night to feed? Were there plenty out there? Who knows?

There was more ----- and it was a happy group of shellers (but with cold feet) that finally crawled back to bed.

from Seafari, Vol. XI. No. 6 , June 1969
the Monthly organ of The Palm Beach County Shell Club

HELPFUL HINTS ON COLLECTING AND CLEANING PTEROPURPURA MACROPTERUS AND PTEROPURPURA VOKESAE.

John Phillips

Having been a dyed-in-the-wool Murex lover for almost 15 years, I was naturally very keen on discovering the whereabouts of our local goodies when I began diving commercially off Santa Barbara about seven years ago. The following helpful hints apply only to personal observations made by myself in the Santa Barbara and Point Concepcion areas. In short, you cannot always judge one by looking at the other, and my observations might prove faulty in other areas where Pteropurpura macropterus and P. vokesae are prevalent.

At the time that I began diving for California Murex, P. vokesae and P. macropterus were both very rare and seldom-seen species; I can well remember the day when I actually trembled with delight at the sight of a lovely set of these shells in the personal collection of a friend. I think that I probably set my mind to wondering about where these little dainty creatures reside on that very day, and I set out on a search which took me almost two years to complete. My search ended with that age-old conchological saying "Shells are where you find them!". The originator of that little statement forgot to add the fact that one must first discover the natural habitat of any given species, and in my case it took two years.

P. macropterus is not a very selective creature regarding the type of bottom that he likes to live on, and I have found him thriving in the following environments: hard rock bottoms with lush growths of algae and kelp and intermittant outcroppings of boulders and rock ledges; smooth, hard rock bottoms with absolutely no bottom growth or rock outcroppongs. The specimens taken on this type of bottom are always very heavily coated with lime and are not desireable as specimen shells; silt bottom with large rock reefs or ledges and boulder rubble piled up in front of the ledges.

This type of bottom seems to house the really choice specimens, and they will be found clinging to the tops and sides of the boulders. Choice specimens may also be found partially buried in the silt edge where the sloping, backsides of each ledge meet the bottom. Heavily coated specimens may be found on the tops and vertical faces of the ledges, and I generally never even bother picking these up. It is very unusual to find P. macropterus residing in the silt channels between the rock reefs or ledges. Incidentally, I forgot to mention that these rock ledges are almost always located on a parallel plane with the shoreline, and the distance between each ledge varies between 10 feet and 100 feet, usually dependant upon the depth of the water. They are located closer together in the deeper water, meaning 80 feet and up; this species may also be collected on a silt bottom with a covering of small stones, and the shells will be found delicately perched on a piece of rubble approximately 1/10th his size. These are usually very choice, almost-uncoated specimens: and at last, this species may be found on large rock reefs which are surrounded by large expances of coarse white sand. The specimens taken here are generally very heavily coated with various types of marine growth, especially a very destructive purple-colored growth that has the bad habit of almost completely eating away the varices of Murex. Needless to say, these latter specimens are not in any way collector's items, and I simply leave them alone.

P. vokesae is a much more selective mollusk than his first cousin macropterus and he choses only several types of bottom to live on, as follows: I have found this species to particularly favor the silt channels or expances between rock reefs or ledges, and they prefer to live in waters over 70 feet (I found them to be quite evident in 140 feet). They are occasionally collected in pairs or threesomes, but they seem to be prevalent as "loners" or singles. They will occasionally be found nestled comfortably underneath a breeding colony of P.macropterus on the boulder rubble that piles up in front of the rock ledges, sometimes with unidentified eggs in tow (the question might arise as to which species the eggs belong to, and I am baffled over this one.); this species may also be collected on silt bottoms with small stone rubble, in company and seemingly in perfect harmony with its favorite cousin macropterus; this shell does not like large rock reefs or ledges, and the occasional specimens that are taken here are very heavily coated and are not specimen shells.

P. vokesae does not attract excess marine growth like P. macropterus, and the encrustations do not seem to anchor themselves as readily on the P. vokesae as they do on the P. macropterus. If there are heavy encrustations on a specimen of P. vokesae, they are almost always very easy to remove and hardly ever leave any damage to the exterior surface of the shell. I have observed that P. vokesae coats homself with a protective coating of silt and some sort of secretion from the mantle of the mollusk; this coating generally repels any serious growths of lime or other destructive marine encrustations, and it acts as a camoflage also. I have also seen, on rare occasions, P. macropterus that were coated with this protective covering, but not nearly so often as the P. vokesae.

Once the Murex are collected it is then time to go through the drudgery of removing the living mollusk and cleaning the shell for the cabinet. There are numerous methods of doing this, but I will relate my own, personal method, which has worked in almost foolproof fashion for myself and my associates. First,I always individually scrub the surface of each shell with a soft-bristled toothbrush to remove the loose dirt and "grunge" that attaches itself to almost every shell beneath the sea (I do this on my boat immediately after surfacing from a dive) . Excess amounts of mud or dirt will very quickly neutralize the potency of any cleaning agent that is being used, and it is a small chore to remove this material prior to taking the shells home for the final cleaning steps. After doing the above maneuver I always cull the load and take out the imperfect and broken specimens, which I personally return to their respective envoronments on the bottom; I also return all juvenile shells to their homes. Next I take the collected specimens home (my home that is) and place them in boiling waterfor approximately five minutes; this kills the mollusk and enables its removal from the external skeleton or shell. Removal of the mollusk can be accomplished by grasping the cooked material firmly with a sharp implement and gently twisting the

animal round and round in a clockwise manner till it comes out. In using the term "sharp implement" I could be talking about almost anything that could either grasp or be inserted into the cooked mollusk. After removing the mollusk I always save each operculum, as this is an important part of the shell. Once the animaland the operculum have been removed I then put the shells in straight pool chlorine bleach for varying lengths of time depending on the degree of coating. Murex may be left in bleach for almost any length oftime without causing any moticeable damage to the shell, but I find that a maximum soaking period of 24 hours will just about take care of anything clinging to the surface of the shells. After removalfrom the bleach thoroughly wash each shell with fresh water and then allow the shells to dry. Once the shells have completely dried the bleached coatings, having been undermined and saturated with chlorine, may be gently plucked away from the surface of the shell with knives, dental tools, ice picks, or anything that suits the desires of the collector. Now we have reached a very crucial stage in our cleaning operation, in that we are herewith presented with that horrible question," Do I use acid on this one???". So many times this question has crossed my mind, and I have worked it out to the best of my ability via the sometimes painful process of trial and error. I find that a very light, brushed-on dab of commercial-grade Muriatic acid on the body whorl and varices of the smooth type P. macropterus will bring out a spot of color that was absent before the brushing. Again, I leave the above procedure strictly up to the individual who owns the shell, as some folks might say that this is an unnatural, semi-artificial way of "coloring" the shell. I sometimes find the surface of the smooth type P. macropterus to be lightly covered with a misty, whitish-colored film after the preliminary cleaning stages, and the acid treatment or acid brushing (not an acid bath) removes this. I try not to use any acid in the spire and apex area, as it will ream out the sutures on the spire and give that particular area a very unhealthy, overcleaned appearance. I never use any acid on any Murex that have imbricated surfaces to their shells; this completely rules out P. vokesae and most of the variations of P. macropterus as being probable victims of the "dreaded acid treatment". Actually, it is not all that bad, and some of my very finest, showpiecespecimens of P. macropterus were carefully treated with acid.

Now we come to the final stage of our cleaning operation, which involves the replacement of natural oils in the surface of the shell which were removed during the boiling and bleaching steps of the cleaning process. Some collectors use a strange solution of glycerin and alcohol, some useJohnson's Baby Oil, but I use light gauge Squibbs Mineral Oil. Thus far the only complaints that I have received regarding this particular phase of the cleaning operation were a few loud cries of "greasy fingers", which cannot be avoided unless one handles his or hers shells with gloves (that's no fun). And finally, in closing out my discussion of the cleaning procedure I will urge every one to always replace the proper operculum with its proper mate.

Now that I have excited every reader to the point of "frenzy", I will further advise each and every able person to travel to your nearest dive shop, rent some equipment for underwater diving, select your diving spot, and last but not least, follow my instructions as outlined in this article and collect your own P.vokesae and P. macropterus, thus eliminating the illustrious "middle-man", or in this particular case, the shell dealer. (In essence I have just slit my own throat!!!!).

Santa Barbara, California.

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN 3

etary-Treasurer
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FIELD MUSEUM LIBRARY

We have made some changes in the Bulletin's format in getting this issue put-to-bed, all of us hope that you'll find it to your liking. The changes were planned to make for a more professional looking and one which will allow for some simplification of the handling. As one example of the greater ease of putting the text together you'll notice two entirely different typewriters have been used in setting the pages, the nice neat typing of several of the pages, two through five for example were done for your editor by the kind offices of Miss Pat Rendell my Secretary who kindly bailed me out of the normal profanity sessions and two finger mangling of the typing, spelling, etc., which comes out of your editor's total lack of talent in that particular artform. For the neat and orderly typewritten pages thank Miss Rendell, and for the rest you can blame me.

Another reason for the changes is to make for ease in getting camera ready copy to the printer. This will have as an added bonus at sometime in the future, the ability to use illustrations as well as text in the Bulletin. For a future issue we are planning to use the pages from a field note book in connection with an article on organizing ones field trips, and relating all of that smelly mess in the bottom of the collecting pail to the nice neat labels and boxes in your cabinets.

Since the Minutes of the Business Meeting were written we have had word of a hitch in the plans of the Conchologists of South East Asia- Thailand Chapter, as soon as we find out how their problems were resolved we'll advise you.

COA CONVENTION - 1974

The third convention of the Conchologists of America was held at the Edgewater Inn in Seattle, Washington from Thursday, June 13 to Sunday, June 16, 1974.

After a morning of registration and getting to know one another, the convention was opened at 1 PM by our president, Kirk Anders, who extended a warm welcome to the attending members and guests and expressed his appreciation and thanks to our host and convention chairman, Tom Rice, for the excellent job he had done in planning this convention. He then turned the meeting over to Tom who spoke briefly, expressing his own welcome to all and introducing the co-host and hostess, Jerry and Agnes Ward. Papers, slide presentations, and films were enjoyed for the rest of the afternoon, with coffe breaks giving everyone an opportunity to discuss the presentations and to chat with the speakers. A no-host cocktail hour before dinner provided the perfect atmosphere for renewing those old acquaintances and for forming new ones. After dinner a "better late than never" cocktail party, given by Kirk, ended the first day on a merry note.

Friday's program was a full one, with papers from 9 AM to 4:30 PM with lunch and coffee breaks interspersed. Lunch time gave an ideal opportunity to take a group photo - a difficult matter as at times we had more people snapping pictures than being photographed.

That evening the no-host cocktail hour was followed by the banquet, then came the event we had all been anticipating - the shell auction. The donors of the shells had been extremely generous and goodies such as Gaza superba, Trophon avalonensis, Oocorys bartschi, and Conus villepinii were among the many highly desirable species to be sold. All shells had been on display during the convention and everyone was determined to take his favorites home with him. Under Tom's superb direction as auctioneer the bidding was very spirited, and at the end of the evening we discovered in amazement that we had raised $839.25 for our treasury. Thanks to everyone who participated, either as donor or as bidder, the success of this auction will be difficult to surpass.

Saturday morning's papers, from 9 AM to noon, followed by the business meeting after lunch, ended the formal sessions of the convention. In all, 61 people had registered and attended the programs.

Saturday afternoon provided everyone with free time to wander through Woodland Park Zoo, visit the Pacific Science Center, catch a movie, or just browse through the shops on the waterfront. That evening we all boarded the Blake Island ferry for an evening of food and entertainment at Tillicum Village,

an Indian longhouse which features salmon barbecued over an open alder wood fire for dinner and authentic North Coast Indian dances afterward.

Sunday was the day we had all been looking forward to - the day we would visit Tom's Of Sea and Shore Museum. The ferry took us across Puget Sound to the port of Bremerton where we made a short side trip to visit the USS Missouri, the battleship on which the treaty with Japan was signed ending World War II. We then headed towards Port Gamble, making one other short stop to take some photos of "Tom's bridge" (where he works as bridge tender) which spans the Hood Canal. After a delicious lunch we arrived at the museum which is located in the restored portion of Port Gamble. Built in the nineteenth century as a saw mill company town, the original buildings of Port Gamble reflect the style of the New England towns from which the builders had originally come. The museum occupies the second floor balcony of the General Store and features educational exhibits of shells and other marine life. General displays which show the life forms to be found on a coral reef or along the shore line are interspersed with cases in which various families of molluscs are featured. There is also an extensive library of reference books available for use. We were very impressed with the superb job that Tom has done in planning and in setting up his museum and recommend it as a "must" for anyone in the area. All too soon it was time to head back to Seattle where we said our good-byes to those who would not be joining us on the three day field trip.

Monday morning we were up and on our way quite early as we wanted to catch the low tide at Padillo Bay on an extensive mud flat area in Bayview State Park. The collecting was quite good and a new experience for those of us who had not "worked" a mud flat before. The most abundant species appeared to be Batillaria zonalis; several species of limpet were also quite common there. After several hours of collecting, admiring, and sharing our finds, we boarded the bus and headed for Deception Pass State Park. All marine life in this park (with the exception of fish) are protected, so no collecting was permitted. For this reason, tidepool life was quite abundant and, as always, fascinating to watch. Then on to Anacortes, where we boarded the ferry which would take us through the San Juan Islands and into Sidney, Vancouver Island. From there it was just a short ride to the lovely town of Victoria, capital of the island, where we spent the night.

Early rising was on the agenda again for Tuesday, as we were eagerly anticipating a minus 2.0 low tide on the famed Victoria Breakwater. Built in steps from huge concrete blocks, the lower levels of the breakwater, when exposed, offer the collector an incredible variety of species and specimens. The shells were so abundant and so free of any surface incrustation that it was a simple matter to choose only a few of the best of each species, returning the others to their habitat. Thais lamellosa, extremely frilly and beautiful, and Katherina tunicata were extremely abundant, with Calliostoma ligatum, Thais

lima and huge Cryptochiton stelleri only slightly less so. Some of the other species found were Collisella digitalis, Notoacmaea scutum, Diodora aspera, Tonicella lineata, Calliostoma annulatum, Fusitriton oregonensis, and many specimens of Haliotis kamtschatkana, collected and cleaned by the gulls and left for our taking. It was a very exciting morning of collecting and one which will be hard to equal. Back at our hotel rooms we dealt with our finds as best as we could, then hurried off for an afternoon of sightseeing in Victoria.

Many of us decided to visit the well known Butchart Gardens, an old limestone quarry which had been turned from an eyesore into a spectacular, twenty five acre collection of rare and beautiful flowers and plants. A sunken garden, a rose garden, a formal English garden, and a Japanese garden were only a few of the separate areas, each horticulturally distinct from the others.

Returning to Victoria, several of us took the Tally-Ho ride, in a horse drawn wagon, which took us on an hour long tour of the town, then visited the newly built Provincial Museum. Others had "high tea" at the famous Empress Hotel or was some of the many other attractions that Victoria has to offer.

Leaving Victoria later that afternoon, we took the ferry across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Port Angeles where we would be shelling the following day.

Again rising early, this time to catch a minus 2.6 tide, we took the short ride to Freshwater Bay. This was a rocky area with a thick covering of kelp underfoot, which made the walking rather treacherous but provided excellent shelling. Again, Thais lamellosa was quite common, but a smooth, elongated form quite different from those we had found in Victoria. The other very abundant species was Fusitriton oregonensis, which might have been in breeding at that point (one was discovered laying an egg mass - aside from photographing it, we did not disturb it). Ceratostoma foliata was found in some quantity, with several specimens having quite a bit of pink coloration in the shell. Other finds were Thais emarginata, Ocenebra interfossa, Searlesia dira, and Tonicella lineata. As he had done the previous day, Jerry Ward donned his wet suit and bravely entered the cold water to do some snorkeling. One of his finds was a specimen of Haliotis kamtschatkana, which he had not collected in Freshwater Bay until then.

All too soon it was time to return to the motel and get our shells and luggage packed for the return trip to Seattle. We drove down the Olympic Peninsula, stopping at Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic National Park for lunch. At an elevation of slightly under one mile, the view of the surrounding snow-capped mountains was breathtaking. We naturally could not pass up the opportunity for a snowball fight and, for a while, snow was flying fast and furious.

Continuing our trip we crossed Tom's bridge over Hood Canal, then picked up the ferry at Bremerton which would take us back into Seattle. Tired as some of

us were, we were all sorry to see the trip come to an end - a lot of fun was had and many good friendships were begun among the thirty-four of us who had spent those three days together. Thanks to the time, thought, and just plain hard work of Tom and Aggie and Jerry Ward it was a trip and a convention that we would never forget.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting of the third Conchologists of America convention was called to order at 1 PM on June 15, 1974 by our president, Kirt Anders, who expressed his appreciation to everyone who had helped make this convention such a success.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted and, as there was no old business to discuss, we moved on to the new business. A motion was made by Robert Janowsky to confer an honorary lifetime membership upon John Paduano in recognition of the time and effort he had devoted to the creation of the COA; this motion was unanimously approved.

Bob then gave a brief report on the founding of the Conchologists of South East Asia - Thailand Chapter. A letter had been written to the COA by Mr. A. J. da Motta, of Bankok, Thailand, requesting information regarding the advisability and the methods of forming a shell club in his area. After receiving Bob's detailed reply, Mr. da Motta held his first meeting during which officers were elected and a constitution and by-laws were drafted. We extend to Mr. da Motta and to the members of Conchologists of South East Asia - Thailand Chapter our congratulations on their new club and our sincere good wishes for its future growth and development.

Our final item of business was the election of officers for the coming year. Dr. Rita O'Clair, Robert Jensen and Jerry Ward, in their capacity as nominating committee, suggested the following slate of officers:

President	Thomas Rice
Vice-President	Phillip Clover
Secretary/Treasurer	Dorothy Janowsky assisted by Robert Janowsky

Robert Janowsky was nominated to be Convention Chairman for the 1975 COA convention. A vote was then called for on each nomination and each was accepted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA - TREASURER'S REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1973

BALANCE APRIL 30, 1973				$ 162.61
RECEIPTS -				
MEMBERSHIPS -				
INDIVIDUAL	10			
CLUB	2			
	12	at $2.00	24.00	
AUCTION			176.50	
1973 CONVENTION			61.83	
			262.33	262.33
				424.94
EXPENSES -				
DUES IN A.M.U. FOR 1974			7.50	7.50
BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1973				$ 417.44

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS		
INDIVIDUAL	101	
CLUBS	4	
CURRENT BALANCE AS OF MAY 31,1974		$ 610.16

Speaking out

Frank J. Nelson

Instead of an editorial in the normal sense, it seems to me that in this issue of the Bulletin, I should simply list the following Editorial Commandments.

1) Thou shalt not accept mediocre work. Because someone has written an article, an editorial, or letter, you certainly needn't simply accept it. If there are errors of fact or opinions with which you do not agree:- send the editor a note with your corrections and comments.

2) Thou shalt not keep people in the dark. If you know about something that you feel the other members should know, write to the editor, do NOT assume that someone else will do so. It's better that the editor should get ten letters about the same thing than none.

3) Thou shalt not procrastinate. When you have a comment or criticism to make. Remember that it's most effective when it's fresh in mind.

4) Thou shalt not avoid expressing criticism or praise. Most people thrive on praise - and praise that can be heard by others can have it's synergistic effects. Praise is usually a better stimulant to motivation than is criticism, but, only when it's deserved. When praise is not well considered and deserved it brings with it almost a guarantee of poor work.

5) Thou shalt not overload. Don't just sit back and say "so and so" always submits an article or a letter, etc. so why should I? If one or several people are asked to carry the whole burden of a job they will inevitably turn poorer quality work, too much pressure doesn't allow one to be as critical of his own work as he should.

6) Thou shalt not discourage innovation. From time to time things will be published in the Bulletin which will not meet the criteria you have in mind for it. Criticise, by all means, even though what you feel is inappropriate to the Bulletin is exactly what someone else thinks of as being entirely appropriate. Write to the editor and give your opinion, this is the only way we have of comparing your opinions with those of others.

7) Thou shall not take anything for granted. No one in the whole world can possibly know what you know or know what you want; keep us informed. If you think that there are services that C.O.A. should provide for it's members - perhaps it's because noone has ever brought it to our attention. Don't sit on your hands, share your thoughts with the whole membership.

8) Thou shalt not set a bad example. If I as editor let a Bulletin get published without it being the very best it can be, if I've allowed sloppy work to get issued, if I havn't checked facts, or if I have otherwise not done the very best job of which I'm capable :- then "Jump all over me".

9) Thou shalt not criticise thoughtlessly. That says it all!!!

10) Thou shalt not assume the role of Mr. Perfect. !!!

11) Thou shalt not ignore what others regard as important. When suggestions are made to the editor, see that the membership as a whole has the chance to comment on them before they are dropped from consideration.

12) Thou shalt not demonstrate lack of confidence. In trying to establish democratic guidelines for the Bulletin, to get the best quality, and set the highest standards, the membership as contributors can and must be encouraged to set and maintain those standards.

All of that "high-blown verbiage" is a way of saying that the success of the Bulletin is entirely dependant upon the interaction between editor and reader. We know that a better Bulletin can only result from having more and better material from which to chose, more thoughtful and thought provoking criticisms from the readers, and more concern on the part of reader and writer alike.

When I introduced myself several issues ago I laid out the rules by which I shall govern my responsibilities as editor. Some of those statements were and are statements of personal and private bias, but a bias derived from reading many papers etc., put out by amateur shell groups. The stature and substantiveness of those publications have been eroded by such ego trips as downright bad poetry, and by printing children's crib sheets masquerading as precocius erudition; however allowing all of the highly democratic rules above to apply without editorial supervision and some sometimes very undemocratic twisting of the ground rules could totally destroy what we are trying to do.

When we can all take pride in the Bulletin and keep that pride up as time goes by then and only then can we really say that the Bulletin and C.O.A. as well are flourishing and all of our efforts have meant something. Good enough will never be enough!

PAN FRIED by JOHN PHILLIPS

Probably one of the finest delicacies to come out of the sea is pan fried San Diego Scallops (Pecten diegensis Dall, 1898); unfortunately this is a gourmet's delight which very few individuals have sampled, and I sincerely wish that I could personally convey the savory flavor of this mollusk to every food-loving individual in the world. I have the fortune (?) of being a six year veteran of the commercial abalone diving business, and I have spent countless hours on the bottom of our Southern California waters in search of our tasty Haliotis and other desirable seashells, one of these being the elusive Pecten diegensis.

Pecten diegensis has long been on the very rare, rare, or scarce list, and I will concur with the writings of any conchologist or malacologist who claims that this is one of the harder-to-obtain Southern California seashells. I searched long and hard before I found my first specimen in 105 feet of water off Coho Anchorage, which is located approximately two miles southeast of Point Concepcion Lighthouse.

I generally collect Pecten diegensis in depths varying from 45 (rarely) feet and 140 feet; however, the larger concentrations of this species seem to centralize themselves in the deeper waters over 80 feet. Many people seem to have the feeling that Pectens can only be collected on sandy or silty bottoms; this might hold true for many species of Pecten or Chlamys, but I find the diegensis living happily on a variety of bottoms (ie. silt or mud with rock rubble, coarse sand bottom with rock rubble, silt or mud pockets in rock reef areas, very seldom in strictly sand or silt bottoms, and quite often I find them laying amongst large rocks or boulders with no sand or silt anywhere nearby). It seems to be a fairly gregarious species, in that I generally

manage to locate more than one specimen at a time in the same general area. I once collected eight fully adult shells (3" and up) in a ten foot radius, and I suspect that there were probably more hiding beneath the silt or sand in the same spot.

I have found that the best way to spot Pecten diegensis is to swim very slowly approximately ten to fifteen feet off the ocean floor, water visibility permitting of course; the scallops do not seem to spot a diver as quickly this way, whereas if you blunder along the bottom this clever mollusk will spot you nine times out of ten and will accordingly take the necessary precautions against the hands of the would-be collector. Generally speaking, Pecten diegensis will be found partially or completely buried in the sand or silt, unless you are lucky enough to locate one that has swum onto a rock reef and is lying there fully unprotected. When they are comfortably nestled in the silt or sand they will then execute their only protection against foes, which is camoflage; they are absolute masters of this, and even the trained eye of a seasoned veteran of Pecten collecting will more often than not, not distinguish the faintly visible silhouette of this shell as it lurks beneath the bottom.

When the Pectens are at ease they slightly open the two valves and protrude their many eyes along the outer edge of the shell. I have no idea what they are looking for with all those lovely eyes, and it is indeed a very strange experience to catch a colony of Pecten diegensis "napping"; like so many grains of irridescent sand amongst all of the other grains of sand on the ocean floor (this is how their eyes appear). Whenever the Pectens sense danger approaching their domain they immediately draw in their eyes, close their shells tightly, and somehow cause a small trickle of sand or silt to settle along the outer, once visible perimeters of their shells, thus sealing them off from the "outside" world and all its dangers. They have even managed to support and even encourage the growth of colonies of algae on the flattened top valves of the shells, and this can easilly be mistaken for common bottom growth. Actually it gives them the appearance of tiny scallop-shaped "forests", standing out in relief against the drab-colored backdrop of a rock reef or a sandy/silty bottom. Once you the diver have learned to spot this little forest the rest is comparitively easy and you are on your way to your very first meal of pan fried San Diego Scallop.

W. S. M. CONVENTION

The seventh annual meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists was held in the Kellogg West Conference Center of California State Polytechnic College in Pomona, California on June 19 - 22, 1974. Dr. James H. McLean, the current President of the W. S. M., was the Convention Chairman.

The presented papers were, for the most part, highly technical, but were interspersed with reports of collecting trips and scenes of last year's meeting. A silent auction on Thursday night, in which bids were written next to the shell of ones choice, provided fun for all and enriched the treasury by about $250.00. The banquet was held Friday evening following a no-host cocktail party. The featured speaker for the evening was Dr. Clyde E. Roper of the U. S. National Museum of Natural History who presented an excellent slide program on Cephalopoda.

The Bookfinder

For those of you with an interest in following John Phillips' recipe for dinner some evening, your appetites might get in the way but a discussion of Pecten diegensis Dall appears on page 302 of "Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, Fourth Series, Vol. XXI, No. 25, The Templeton Crocker Expedition of the California Academy of Sciences, 1932 Number 25, The Recent Pectinidae, by Leo George Hertlein.

To continue the concept that we started in Bulletin Number 2 for the library resources that you might not have touched upon:-

PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT
MUSEUM OF COMPARITIVE ZOOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

Have for sale three series of great interest and value to the serious collector, they are Bulletins, Occasional Papers on Mollusks, and Johnsonia. Perhaps all of you have already either seen or subscribed to these publications and if you have there is very little that I can say to further describe them, but for those not familiar with the Molluscan Fauna of the Western Atlantic region Johnsonia is a continuing series of monographs on the various Families and Genera in this Zooeogeographical Region and are invaluable for collectors with material which comes from anywhere in this area.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS
DEPT. M-1
ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
19th and THE PARKWAY
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103

Also have several serial publications, Notulae Naturae, Proceedings, Monographs, and Special Publications, the contents of these series are so extensive that it would be futile for me to make any attempt to point to any one of them without going into a several page listing of the important ones if all that I did was to produce a listing of the titles.

ACADEMIC PRESS, INC.
111 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003

Are a publisher of many highly specialized books in fields covering almost all of the sciences, but, I'd like to call your attention to two titles in their current list:-

Medical and Economic Malacology, by Emile A. Malek and Thomas C Cheng

Molluscicides in Schistosomiasis Control, Edited by Thomas C. Cheng these are each expensive and highly specialized in their focus but I felt that there might be some value in calling your attention to the obvious fact that what we are interested in from one point of view has another area of investigation which has a very wide ranging effect on all of the populace of the world.

Just in case you are interested the prices of the two books above are $ 29.00 and 12.50 respectively

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CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN

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Speaking out

Frank J. Nelson

Another issue of the Bulletin, and you are going to hear the same old complaint - NO CONTRIBUTIONS - I don't like to be so repetitious and belabor the point of the amount of work which falls on the Editor when he can call on only himself and his wife to be all of the authorship in an entire issue.

Don't alibi about the lack of time at your disposal, I have a full time job, am presently the president of The New York Shell Club; do all of the material gathering for the Bookfinder; have the publication of The New York Shell Club Notes from my home every month; am the typical hammer and saw in hand householder; I manage a little sleep now-and-then; and I show the visible effects of many good meals.

One of the good things that comes of reading all of the trade publications that land on my desk is the occasional chance that I can crib an idea from someone else's material. Recently I ran into this one;-

"In a now classic experiment conducted by the Psychology Department of Columbia University, a group of volunteers had 1-pound weights suspended from their index fingers. They were instructed to crook the finger - thus lifting the weight - for as long as they possibly could. Only when they were certain that they could no longer budge the weight were they to signal the psychologist in charge.

Some of the volunteers were able to lift the weight 100 times or more. But sooner or later, each one reached his own individual point of total exhaustion. His finger felt paralyzed; the weight seemed a ton.

None of the subjects could see any of the others and as each succumbed in turn, the psychologist hurried over to him and whispered something in his ear.

In every single case, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, the volunteer was able to lift the weight many more times after listening to what the psychologist had to say. Some were able to lift the weight more than 20 times past the point they were initially convinced represented complete exhaustion. Several subjects bettered their original performance by almost 30 percent.

What magic phrase did the psychologist employ?

Simple.

What he whispered was this; 'From this point on, I will give you a dollar for every time you succeed in lifting the weight!'

A dollar bill for just crooking the index finger! It worked like magic. Suddenly, fingers came to life. The weights moved swiftly, firmly.

Why? Because nothing is geared to extract the last ounce of effort out of a human being better than a REWARD."

I can't offer dollar bills but surely getting into print is a reward, and helping other people with the same interests is rewarding, I know that it sure is for me, and I think that it is the same with all of us.

Haiti, A Unique Experience

Considering its tarnished reputation, I don't know what caused my husband and I to change our vacation plans and go to Haiti with the Kirk Anders' Tour group last March. Our Fairy Godmother must have had a hand in it, because it proved to be one of the most fortunate decisions we ever made.

People sometimes evasively use the word "unique" when they can't think of anything complimentary to say, yet must say something. Also, I recently heard it said, by a visitor to this country, that Americans tend to use the word too liberally, when a thing is not, in fact, unique. On both counts I plead not guilty. It's not at all difficult to say nice things about Haiti. And I do mean "unique" in the strict sense --- one of a kind, singular, unlike anything else. I'm in no way implying that the other islands of the Caribbean are all alike, but I doubt that any are sufficiently different from all the others as to be called unique.

As the second oldest independent country in the western hemisphere, having attained its independence in 1804, Haiti has probably retained more of its African heritage than any of the other Caribbean countries. One of the means by which this African culture has been maintained is through the practice of Voodoo, which is based on the old African tribal religions, with overtones of Catholicism. Because the early slaves did not resist forceable conversion to Catholicism by the French, but instead superficially embraced it, and incorporated into Voodoo many of its beliefs and practices, Voodoo has survived repeated and persistent attempts to suppress it. And over the years, Voodoo has become so ingrained into the Haitian culture and soul as to be almost synonymous with Haiti.

Its early history as a French colony has, of course, left Haiti with a very French flavor. But the early severing of ties with France has allowed this to evolve away from the French into Creole. Even the islands of the French West Indies are not colonies, but actually departments of France itself, and consequently, much more truly French than Haiti.

Geographically, Haiti has the highest and some of the most rugged mountains in the Caribbean, and it is one of the very few countries in the area to share an island with another government. The Dominican Republic, lying to the east, occupies 2/3 of the island of Hispaniola, with Haiti the western third. And unlike the open border of the half French, half Dutch island of St. Maarten, the Haitian-Dominican border is a rigidly closed one. Economically, it is the poorest of the Caribbean countries, with the average annual cash income estimated at between $50 and $75 per capita. Demographically, its approximately 5,000,000 population is overwhelmingly

black, including a fair number of mulattos, with only about 3,000 whites. And a happier, friendlier people you won't find anywhere. There seems to be no resentment whatsoever toward the tourist because of either his color or his greater affluence.

From the moment our plane landed in Port-au-Prince, and we faced the unpleasant ritual of customs and immigration, the people couldn't have been more pleasant and cooperative. Then, before we had time to recover from this unexpected friendliness, we were whisked away in a bus through appallingly poor but fascinating suburbs and small towns, to the dock where we were to get the boat for Cacique Island and the Ibo Beach Hotel. Once on the island, to reach the hotel, we went along a cement walk in which Voodoo designs had been created with bits of staghorn coral. The following morning, by daylight, we discovered that many of the buildings and cottages were connected by these interesting walkways. In the open-air bar, we were invited to relax over a welcoming rum punch (and what a punch it had!) while being assigned to our cottages. By then, it was totally dark, and we had to be escorted to our rooms by flashlight. After that, we were on our own and somehow managed to find our way back to the dining room for dinner without mishap.

After dinner, we naturally couldn't sleep until we had done what we all sent there to do --- go shelling. Armed with flashlights, we searched along the sea wall, climbed over rocks and around mangrove roots, never more than a foot or two into the water, since we hadn't yet seen this area in daylight. We found Nerita peloranta, N. tessellata, N. fulgurens, N. versicoler, Planaxis nucleus, Acanthopleura granulata, Litterina ziczac, and some Purpuras. After the tiring trip, a stiff rum punch, and then shelling, we were all happy to fall into bed, and I doubt that anyone stayed awake for long to enjoy the heavenly breeze and the sound of the waves lapping the shore just a few feet from our cottages.

Perhaps we were all too tired, too excited, or too "punchy" that first evening to notice, but I don't recall having any difficulty at dinner. Breakfast, on the other hand came as a bit of a shock. Seven-thirty in the morning is no time to be faced with the alternative of remembering a little high school French or of starving! Haitians (except for the elite) speak Creole, with some French and less English. But fortunately they appreciate any attempt to speak to them in French, however poor or ungrammatical it may be. So, with their limited English and our limited French, our attempts to communicate were met with great good humor and much fun all around. We quickly learned to give our room numbers in French and, for the most part, got what we ordered to eat.

With our orientation to the island and a few other incidentals like food and sleep out of the way, we were ready to do some serious

collecting. Cacique, a private island located northwest of Port-au-Prince in the Gulf of Gonave, lies about a half mile off shore. The water here was clear and calm (great for snorkeling), and a lovely coral reef lies just off shore in shallow water, running the length of the island on the gulf side. It was along this reef, around the eastern end of the island and into the channel between Cacique and the mainland that we did most of our shelling. There were Murex pomum, Strombus raninus, S. pugilis (one an albino), S. gigas, S. costatus, Xenophora conchyliophora, Cassis flammea, Coralliophila abbreviata, C. Caribaea, Thais deltoidea, T. haemostoma, T. rustica, Drupa nodulosa, Leukozonia nassa, Mitra nodulosa, Columbella mercatoria, and Cantharis tinctus. Many Cyphoma gibbosum were crawling on the purple sea fans, and the sea wall produced Acanthopleura granulata, Acmaea antillarium and Fissurella barbadensis. Kirk Anders found a Chione that, as far as I know, is still unidentified, and I believe that there were only two Conus regius collected. The mangrove roots and gorgonias were covered with Isognomon alata, I. radiata, Ostraea frons, Pinctada radiata and Pteria colymbos, but many other bivalves (Codakia orbicularis, Tellina fausta, Laevicardium laevigatum, and Asaphis deflorata) were found dead. Hermit crabs reluctantly gave up Mitras, Cerithiums and other small shells. Along the shore of the eastern end of the island, rocks, plants and trees were polka-dotted with thousands of Tectarium muricatus, while at the western end we found the sand inside the foundation of the future dive shop black with millions of Batillaria minima. Perhaps the most exciting finds were made by Kirk Anders and Jeff Welling, who each found a Latirum mcgintyi, although Jeff's was sadly lost or misplaced. But it would be impossible to give a complete list of all the species found by all fourteen members of the group.

Being the lone misfit in the crowd who was more interested in non-marine shells than in marine, I couldn't wait to explore the undeveloped north side of the island. On several trips into this brush and cactus covered area, my husband and I found 6 different species of land snails, most of them estivating on the cacti. I haven't yet identified them accurately, but there are two very interesting Macroceramus. Exploring this side of the island was hot and tiring, and once we thought that we had lost Corinne Edwards, who accompanied us. On one trip we were rewarded by watching and photographing the mating dance of a peacock that was much annoyed by our intrusion into his territory. But he retaliated one evening by arrogantly and very noisily parading around among the cottages on "our side" of the island.

Eight of us chartered a boat one day to go to Pelican Reef and Sand Cay, about 5 miles out in the Gulf of Gonave. We didn't find anything very different here except Pinna carnea, but nowhere did we see Cyphoma gibbosum in such numbers. It was a perfect day for a trip like this, with the sun hot and bright, and the water calm and crystal-clear. Pelican Reef, in particular, is a wonderland of colorful corals, sea fans, gorgonias and lively, inquisitive tropical fish in every shade of the rainbow. The beauty of this reef more than made up for the paucity of shells.

Although it was a delightful day, we were all hot, tired and sunburned, and quite happy to get back to the hotel with its showers and rum punch. The Ibo Beach is a pleasant and relaxing hotel, with its informality especially well suited to shell collectors. There are, at present, about 70 separate, attractive and airy cottages situated near the water on white sand and protected by many shade trees. There are 3 swimming pools, one with a waterfall, and facilities for many other activities. Construction on the new open-air dining room and bar was nearing an end, as was the landscaping of the eastern end of the island. As the owner of the hotel (and of the island) outlined for us his plans for improvement and enlargement, I know that at least some of us were looking forward to a return trip some day.

Our last day in Haiti was spent sight-seeing on the mainland. Compared to most of the Caribbean countries, Haiti is a very large one, and in one day we saw only a small sample of what it has to offer. Fortunately for us, this happened to be market day, and the countryside was made much more colorful and interesting by the hundreds of peasants walking or riding burros to and from market with loads of assorted produce on their heads, by ox carts, open-air markets teeming with people, and by hordes of street vendors that descended like a plague of locusts wherever we stopped.

We passed through Port-au-Prince, jammed with people buying and selling their wares, and through the fashionable suburb of Petionville. Then south of the city, we climbed higher and higher on narrow, winding roads, with a breathtaking and different view at each turn in the road --- here a small glimpse of the capitol or the Gulf, there gardens terraced into the hillside, and everywhere the road lined with peasants walking or selling an endless variety of merchandise. And on approaching each turn in the road, the driver gave out with a blast on the horn, against the ever-present possibility that another vehicle was hurtling down the mountain toward us.

We stopped at a large, open-air market where an unbelievable assortment of foodstuffs was spread out in piles on the ground, crude shacks were aflutter with clothing of every color of the spectrum, and small fires, over which women were cooking concoctions of doubtful origin, gave off an acrid smell. The women and older girls were bustling back and forth with that amazingly graceful walk that can only be achieved after years of carrying heavy loads on their heads. The smaller children, who spoke a surprising amount of English, were all vying with each other to act as our guides or to have their picutes taken for, of course, a price. They were, for the most part, unusually attractive children with beguiling and friendly smiles, yet with a subtle maturity in their manner and expression.

Higher up the mountain, we stopped at Le Perchoir for a panoramic view of Port-au-Prince, the Gulf and the Cul-de-Sac plain, all ringed with the high, rugged mountains. From there, we made a stop at the Barbancourt Rum Factory in a beautiful old castle that clings to the

side of the mountain. There, in the dim coolness of the thick stone walls, amid rich Mediterranean decor, we sampled 17 different flavors of rum liqueur. Several of the flavors were, in all honesty, dreadful, but most were good and several outstanding. And with apologies to the other rum-producing countries of the Caribbean, I must say that Barbancourt is the aristocrat of rums.

On the way down the mountain, we made several stops where we haggled over wood carvings, drums, goatskin rugs, etc. And haggle you must! This is no time for timidity. Unless you are willing to be "taken", you have to match the perseverance of the vendors with an equal amount of firmness. A number of us made purchases quite satisfactory to both parties, and we all cheered as Germaine Warmke finally talked down the price on a rug to her limit just as our driver was set to pull out.

In Petionville, a charming restaurant offered us an opportunity to relax over a sumpuous lunch and freshen up a bit before going back into Port-au-Prince. In town, we saw the Presidential Palace and the Palace Guard, various embassies and parks, the famous statue "The Slave" that commemorates the slave revolt that culminated in Haitian independence, statues of several national heroes, the main Post Office, the lovely wide Boulevard Harry S. Truman that borders the harbour, and everywhere the quaint, colorful camions (small, inexpensive, decorated, over-crowded local buses). Of course, each stop was met with the ever-present crowd of vendors, and although the day was far too short for all that we wanted to see and do, we were quite ready to head back to the boat for our cool, quiet little island.

I don't know what it is about shell collectors and shelling trips, but they seem to attract more than their normal share of humorous incidents, and this one was no exception. Every day seemed to bring something different. If it wasn't the daily struggle to communicate with our waiter before starvation set in, it was in trying to get sufficient lemonade for an impromptu party in the McKnight's cottage, a party thrown specifically to use up a bottle of vodka and at which the vodka outlasted the lemonade. But the final day, when we were stuck for a couple of hours in that limbo between immigration and the plane, reduced us all to tears of hilarity. An unsuspecting, German-speaking tourist made the mistake of trying to use Phyllis Welling's large, plastic collecting pail for a trash receptical. The language barrier, as well as the startling humor of it, made any explanation nearly impossible. And to this day, the poor man is no doubt wondering about that seemingly demented American, who was too surprised to do anything but sit there hugging her pail and saying "No, no, no!". Perhaps the strain of laughing was too much for it, but shortly after that, a zipper broke, as they have a way of doing at the worst possible moment. It must have been Corinne Edwards military training that saved the day, because she was the only one with a safety pin handy, thus saving my husband from possible arrest for indecent exposure.

Haiti is a country so full of surprises and contrasts that each person must necessarily come away with a somewhat different impression. For me, the most vivid memories will always be the cheerfulness and friendliness of the people, in the face of their appalling poverty. But I think, for convenience and safety, anyone thinking of going there for the first time would do well to learn a bit about it beforehand. Roads between the urban areas are poor at best, and sometimes dangerous or impassable. No tourist should expect to visit for a week or two and cover the whole country from Port-au-Prince to Jeremie, Jacmel and Cap Hatien, although air fare between these cities is quite reasonable. Aside from the usual dysentery, there are several diseases, including malaria, that one should be aware of and take the proper precautions. Sanitary facilities and safe water are virtually non-existent in most of the rural areas, and except for the small children, the peasants generally do not want to be photographed.

At no time did the authorities interfere with our movement or activities, or in any way give us a hard time. Some political refugees reportedly say that conditions in Haiti have worsened, and perhaps for those engaged in political subterfuge, they have. But I think that the point of view of a political refugee might necessarily and expectedly be somewhat colored and biased, and the average tourist would be in a rather different position, with respect to the authorities, than a Haitian who is actively engaged in politics. The present government has instituted some very ambitious programs in health, education, sanitation, irrigation, soil conservation, etc. And I certainly believe that no tourist need have any fear of going to Haiti if he is prepared quite simply to behave as a visitor in any country should.

Lee Nelson

The Bookfinder

The Bookfinder of this issue of the Bulletin will deal with a single topic - one with which many of you will have had no experience: Microforms.

The term Microforms, in general, is used to mean either Microfilm or Microfiche, and by a greater extension any photographic reproduction of original material in a smaller format. In the formal sense the ordinary snap-shot is a microform of the view which was

seen by the camera lens, and the negative is the first generation microform or the microform master. The first experience that many of the older of us have had with the field of applied microfilming was with the World War II use of "V-mail", which permitted the overseas transport of almost ten million letters on reels of microfilm in one single cargo plane. To better conceptualize the weight saving alone that was able to be effected by the use of microfilm, mail tonnage transported overseas was reduced from 2,700 tons to 31 tons per day during many months of the war years.

For the storage and retrieval of information the microforms most frequently used are Microfilm and Microfiche. Microfilm is defined, in the restricted sense in which we are using it in this report, as document storage in the form of roll film, either 16mm or 35mm, usually in rolls of 100 feet, or in some cases in roll film cartridges (a single roll of microfilm can easily contain all of the information stored in an entire file cabinet drawer). In conjunction with a microfilm reader, records can be searched and information located in a fraction of the time required to go through paper records. Inherent within the roll film storage system are great advantages and great drawbacks - the enormous number of images per roll. As an example 100' of 16mm film can contain 28,000 standard 3" x 5" file cards or 10,700 letter size pages in a fixed serial order. This means that with an average page content of books of 400 pp each, a single roll with a content of 26 standard printed books would have to be dealt with every time a single page reference was required which would be a very burdensome procedure.

Changes in any document so stored, additions of new material or information requires the rephotographing of entire rolls of film. Revision or up-dating becomes a very complex and costly procedure when using roll stored information.

For all of the reasons above, the concept of unitized microforms comes to mind, each entire unto itself or at least containing a significant part of the whole sequence of information. At the outset of microform document storage, the number of formats proliferated into a vast and unworkable number each with a different number of pages per unit and with a different reduction ratio from the original. Several formats are still in use, most for highly specialized uses only, those on tabulating or bookkeeping machine size cards and those which are designed for microfiche cards only. The tabulating card sized formats are Aperture Cards, each containing a single engineering drawing reduced to approximately 60:1, which permits the retnetion of drawings in each stage or revision. These are usually augmented by the use of specialized aperture cards with openings for 16mm film strips to contain parts lists, bills of material, specifications etc., which require continuous easy access. Much has been argued for the concept that this format permits key punching or other machine processing to make use of rapid access or random access filing methods. It is interesting to note, however, that this is being done in only a very few cases. The especially popular system for microfiche, as the unitized document recording format, is in individual 9cm x 12 cm or 105mm x 148.75mm size transparancies. All of the various standardized formats of microfiche have a human readable title area. The very

large number of formats have been reduced to six, the distinguishing features of which are:

105mm which reduces a single document to a maximum reduction of 12:1

COSATI (Committee of Scientific and Technical Information) which in a format of 5 rows of 12 columns reduces 60, 8½" x 11" pages to a maximum 20:1 reduction

NMA (The National Microfilm Association) which in a format of 7 rows of 14 columns reduces 98, 8½ x 11" pages to a maximum reduction of 24:1

DOD (Department of Defense) and (European) which in a format of 5 rows of 12 columns reduces 60, 8½" x 14" pages or European Letter Sheets to a maximum 24:1 reduction.

In addition, there are two formats which are ultra densely packed:

HR Fiche (High Reduction Fiche) which can condense 2100, 8½" x 11" pages in an array of 30 rows of 70 columns to a maximum reduction of 120:1

Ultra HR Fiche (Ultra High Reduction Fiche) which can condense 3200, 8½" x 11" pages in an array of 40 rows of 80 columns to a maximum reduction of 150:1.

The two high reduction microfiches are expensive to produce, have many of the same drawbacks of microfilm and also require very highly specialized and expensive readers. Commercially available microfiches are produced in the COSATI, NMA, and DOD formats for which most of the accessible readers are also made. Microfiche masters (first generation microfiches) are produced by photographing books, pamphlets etc., on either 105mm film in a step and repeat camera, which produces the entire fiche on a single negative,

or by using a 16mm roll film camera and cutting the roll negative into strips to produce the master. In both mastering techniques the masters are then reproduced by conventional photographic methods to yield a silver or diazo positive.

In a later issue of the bulletin we will run a survey of the readers, files, and other anciliary equipment used with Microfiche libraries.

Since the primary purpose of the Bookfinder is to make our readers aware of library resources, be they in public, private or individual libraries, the rest of this discussion will be devoted to a sampling of some of the Microfiches available from

Inter Documentation Company AG.
Poststrasse 14
6300 Zug, Switzerland.

This firm has at present in excess of 300,000 volumes in "Micro-Library" form in stock. The criteria in choosing material which they have decided to produce in Microfiche are:

1) Difficulty of access (parts of material may be located in widely separated locations)
2) Evidence of Need(material not readily located in the Antiquarian Book market)
3) Recommendation of Scholars in the Field
4) Usefulness in Research
5) In its conventional form, material requires excessive storage space

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Another issue of the Bulletin ready to print and we have two firsts - humor in Mike Werner's story of the Fire Tooth Cone, which will not, I hope, be our last laughing look at the shell world. The other first is my illustrations of various features of Conus pyrodens, don't blame Mike for them. My insertion of my own "art work" with his article was done with an ulterior motive, to show that we can print line drawings and sketches. Keep in mind that an article can often be much improved with an illustration, to clarify a point, or with a sketch map of a collecting area. If you do submit an article with sketches or maps, keep them simple and original, please - someone else's illustrations really do not fit your articles as well as your own will.

I think that the overall quality of the Bulletin is continuing to improve, in this issue we have had the benefit of better proofreading to discover the little errors that do creep in. Since I've lost my secretary to matrimony, I'm responsible for any typing "boo-boos" you might find.

Our Fourth Annual Convention will be in Virginia Beach, Virginia this year October 4th through 7th with the Windjammer Motor Lodge as our base of operations. Of particular interest this year will be the trip to Colonial Williamsburg which figured prominently in the events of 200 years ago. The Field Trip is scheduled for Sunday afternoon at the well known Rice's Fossil Pit, which will give many people their first fossiling experience. (Among the best features of a fossiling expedition is that your collecting pail doesn't develop that smell.) If you haven't already gotten the information on the Convention, write directly to Dorothy Janowsky. For what it's worth, Lee and I have done some vacation juggling and will be able to attend this year. We're looking forward to meeting those of you that we haven't met before and renewing our acquaintence with the rest.

See you then!

Speaking out

Frank J. Nelson

It's real fun to be the editor of a publication like the Bulletin but it does carry with it a degree of responsibility, as indeed any "ego trip" does. We are carrying in this issue a review of a book that I didn't care for. As I did not like this book, I asked my wife Lee to read it too; the review as it appears is our combined effort.

All of that preamble is to introduce this explanation of the way in which I feel an editor's or a reviewer's responsibility operates. If one reads a book, thoughtfully, and reviews it favorably, in whatever terms, then everyone concerned is happy - Author, Publisher, Bookseller and Reading Audience. If on the other hand one decides that a favorable review is not proper, a decision has been made which has its effect on the livelihood of three members of that chain, and a regard for them compels an entirely different point of view. It is not enough to take the easy way out and ignore the very existance of the book, inasmuch as the reviewer's first responsibility is to the reader and not the writer. Neither can one, in good conscience, write a glib and facile "put-down" of the work. A regard for the author and the reader as well requires a full and thoughtful criticism of all of those reasons for which a book requires such a review. Further, if any one purchases a book on the recommendation of the reviewer, it lies on the reviewer to see that hard-earned money is not wasted on a book not worthy of its price.

Minor mistakes or mishaps will appear in any book, and even errors of fact of a minor nature weigh little in a work of generally good quality. If the errors and other lapses in a book are so pervasive as to render it not only of small value, but are perhaps so bad as to generate opinions or impart information which are grossly false and misleading, then this must be covered at greater length and with more care. No author approaches the writing of a book without a certain amount of vanity showing, though if one has something of value to pass on to the reader, vanity is not a grievous fault. When, on the other hand, an author has no more reason to write than the display of vanity then this is not enough, by a very large margin, to justify the cutting down of the first tree to produce the paper on which to print it.

For those of you who haven't heard of them there are several publishing firms called in the trade "vanity presses", organized to provide the authors of utter trash with an avenue to having a book published, and for this service the author guarantees a minimum sale. I am not accusing either this author or this publisher of this practice, but I am pointing out that there are factors other than real value that inspire the production of books.

On Rare Shells by William E. Old, Jr

Not long after I came to the Museum a well-known Florida collector wrote, "How I envy you being there at the Museum and everyone coming in with their rare shells." I replied that this sounded like wishful thinking. In the past decade, rarities or so-called rare shells have materialized at the rate of about one per year. In every case, the shell brought or sent was directly from the country of origin. Thet old shell from the attic or grandma's whatnot stand was proved to be just that ------- merely an old shell (and of no particular value). To the novice, literally any cylindrically shaped gastropod shell is a " Glory-of-the-Sea Cone" and any Cowrie Shell is invariably envisioned as being a long lost specimen of Cypraea leucodon. As I recall,the first person to bring in a genuinely rare specimen was a collector who had just purchased a Cypraea langfordi and wanted to show it to me.

An associate, Anthony D'Attilio, once obtained a specimen of Cymatium ranzanii, a species that had been described in 1851 and was unobtainable for years. Tony's specimen had been collected in Mozambique. Later, in breaking up an old display of shells, a shell from an old collection and labeled as Cymatium femorale, turned out to be a specimen of Cymatium ranzanii. A second similar case was that of a collector who had shown me a dextral (right-handed) specimen of Busycon contrarium that he had collected in the Ft. Myers Beach area. In removing a dusty shell labeled Busycon carica from another display, I felt that it was actually another dextral specimen of Busycon contrarium. Here were two "sleepers" found on the premises.

Two guesses that proved to be correct were in a small parcel received from a contact in Zanzibar. I mused that perhaps it would contain a specimen of Cymatium ranzanii. Then opened the parcel to find that the guess had been correct. A second guess was the receipt of a small registered parcel from a friend in Florida. Cypraea surinamensis was my thought, since the sender owned one. Bingo! He had sent the shell as a gift to the museum.

A small air mail packet from the Solomon Islands yielded two specimens of Conus gloria-maris. Other parcels from the same source produced a total of five Conus gloria-maris, one Cypraea auriantum and a Casamaria vibex. The Islander hasn't been heard from since, evidently having retired on the income from the seven shells.

An American lady stopped at the museum on returning from the Republic of Somalia. "I think that I have a specimen of Strombus oldi in my knapsack," she said. She had surmised correctly and later presented the shell to the Museum. Collectors sometimes inquire where they can obtain a specimen of my "namesake." Actually there

is no source of supply. The few known specimens of this species in this country have been brought back, or sent back, by Americans living in the Republic of Somalia.

A few years ago, an American who had collected off Jiddah, South Arabia, brought in an assortment of shells. His Cypraea talpa proved to be a 77mm. specimen of Cypraea exusta, a rather rare species emdemic to the Red Sea. (Later he returned to ask, "are you sure that isn't Cypraea talpa?") Incidentally, one shell wasteland is the Persian Gulf, long ballyhooed as a home of rare shells. Records in the literature, lists from expeditions and reports of people who have lived and collected there have produced very little in the way of shells and no "rarities". The Gulf water is hot, fairly shallow and with a high inflow of silt and fresh water from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. A medical missionary who spent a residence at a hospital in Bahrain considered it a sheller's disaster. Collectors residing there have stopped in with common shells such as Cypraea caurica and Conus pennaceus and stated that "Two of these have been found by our group in three years."

Photographs of two shells from the Philippines proved to be of Cypraea leucodon, a legendary species known only from Broderip's type in the British Museum and a second specimen at Harvard University. The precise locality for the species had been unknown, South Africa having been a much repeated error. This specimen was later purchased by John E. DuPont. The second Cowrie in the photographs, an unnamed species ex pisc., was obtained by Crawford Cate, described as Cypraea porteri (after the collector) and deposited in the California Academy of Sciences.

Another Cypraea, received in an assortment from Muscat, Arabia, proved to be exciting. It was a specimen of Cypraea teulerei, an Indian Ocean species, somewhat similar to Cypraea mus from the lower Caribbean area. The one received was, to my knowledge, the first to be collected in the 20th century and with reliable locality data. All old existing specimens in collections were usually labeled as having come from "Mocha, Yemen" in the Red Sea. Later I was told to keep the shell as others had been found. Since then, the supply of Cypraea teulerei has caught up with demand. This is also the case with Tibia martinii and Strombus listeri. Many of the deep water Gulf of Mexico shells that were formerly collector's items are now commonplace. So rare shells come and rarity goes ---- or Sic transit gloria maris!!

Illustrations and Further Reading

Cate, Crawford. A new Cowrie species from the Southern Philippines. Veliger January 1966, pp 200-201,pl. 29.

Emerson, William K. Strombus (Tricornis) oldi. Indo-Pacific Mollusca,

Apr. 30th 1965 pp 397-398

Emerson, W.K. and Anthony D'Attilio, Remarks on Triton ranzanii. American Museum Novitates, Oct. 10th 1962, pp 1-8

Emerson, W.K. and W. Old. Jr. New Records for Cypraea surinamensis. Nautilus, July 1965, pp 26-30, pl. 3.

Hawaiian Shell News

Cymatium ranzanii. Dec 1963 p. 4; Jan. 1964 p. 8; Feb. 1971, p.7.

Cypraea leucodon. Oct. 1965, p3 (Also photo National Geographic Magazine, Mar. 1969, p. 415)

Cypraea porteri. Oct. 1965, p.3.

Strombus oldi. Oct 1965, p.5; Nov. 1966, p. 7.

Conus gloria-maris. July 1966, pp. 4,5,7; Sept. 1970, pp. 1, 3-7.

Cypraea teuleri. June 1964, p.2; Sept. 1969, p. 1,4; July 1970, p. 3.

Strombus listeri.Feb. 1971, p. 7; Apr. 1971, p. 10.

Some five years ago Mr. Earl Reed, curator of the Springfield (Massachusetts) Museum of Science, spoke at the New York Shell Club on the subject of rare shells. Mr. Reed remarked upon the flexible meaning of the word rare as applied to shells. There are three "catch-all" categories as it applies to rare shells:

First, biological, or actual, in number- relict species- or those from inaccessible habitats.

Second, economic, by virtue of the Law of Supply and Demand, command high prices because of popular appeal--- usually because of attractive appearance.

Third, Artificial or Created, those which are surrounded by an aura of romanticism, as in the case of Conus gloria-maris. Stimulated by dealers in the sales lists, which is usually a measure of the dealer's own enthusiasm. Residual as in the case of shells once really rare in collections, which still are listed by the trade as rare long after the supply has risen to meet the demand. In the eye of the dealer any shell is rare if in fact he hasn't seen it before.

CONUS PYRODENS: The Almost Incredible Story Behind the Name. by Milton Werner

Conus pyrodens, the "fire-tooth" cone, was named by the malacologist who was on the scene when divers brought up the first specimens in the western reaches of the Pacific Ocean, in 1902. The location was Nobi Kini Atoll, one of the links that make up Paramnesia, the palm-studded chain between Polynesia and Paronomasia. The scientist was Dr. Colus Stimsoni, chancellor of the Haywood University Marine Biotics Umbrella Group. Little did he suspect, early on a certain tropical morning, that he was soon to see a behavioral feature of a new species raised to high drama, culminating in multiple mortality.

Stimsoni owed his presence on that remote ring of sand to the understanding

and generosity of his brother-in-law, Deere John. John was the famed inventor of agricultural machinery, known half the world around for such innovations as his steam-driven compost heap. Knowing well the dreams and frustrations that warred beneath Stimsoni's academic languor, John had given him checque blanche - and also, one might pun, chart blanche - for exploration into the mysteries of molluscan life.

So Stimsoni had chosen this far archipelago, and on the historic day was conducting a faunal survey of the atoll's reef, employing local divers. Within minutes of their first descent, there flashed the opening scene in a fantasmagoria of disaster. One diver was seen by another to snatch his hand out of a crevice as if in dire pain, his entire frame then flailing into a frenzy infinitely more eloquent of anguish. As the observer described this seizure, it must have rivalled the skitterings of a panicked scallop. Mercifully, the macabre underwater ballet was quickly ended by the soothing hand of death.

The nature of the assassin remained a mystery only for minutes. A third diver, meanwhile, had collected a large Conus, thoughtlessly adding it to the amalgam in a cloth sack at his waist. He then returned to the beach, the bag now dangling against his leg. Suddenly, with a tortured scream, he pinwheeled into the air. Before touching the sand again, he executed a variety of muscular and vocal exertions that constricted the hearts of witnesses. The writhing wretch was airborne twice more before his shrieks congealed into a death rattle.

While the appalled spectators were examining the contorted remains - and discovering the offending Conus - a second specimen was beached. This one was brought up safely in a bucket, but was left unattended as the diver joined the post mortem. It was the ill fortune of the resident beachcomber, as he approached this tableau, to pass the bucket. Long habit lead him to swoop for the bauble his eye had caught-- but habit had not prepared him to handle a living prize. Barely had he seized it when he convulsed into his rendition of death by internal flame. And his terrifying interpretation was not the last.

His instant, involuntary response had been to fling away the shell. It flew toward another approaching onlooker, a tourist whom pitiless fate decreed would be none other than F.X. "Shanty" Schneckwerfer, star shortstop of the Punxsutawney, Pa. Groundhogs. Taken unaware, he too reacted automatically, expertly snaring the wide throw and whirling for the relay to first base. Now Shanty was a rarity among shortstops - a southpaw. This, the cognoscenti said, was all that kept him out of the big leagues. Worse, it was what sent him to the Big Ballpark before his time. To throw to his left, he first had to pivot 90 degrees, consuming a tick of time that proved too long. As he released the shell he was seen to yank his hand back, and fling himself into a wrenching fandango that heavily outpointed the galvanic gymnastics of the howling scavenger.

Destiny's crooked deck held one more Ace of Spades. Schneckwerfer's quick eye had located a "first baseman" - a chance bystander later identified as an area representative of Paramnesia's Food and Betel Administration. This portly worthy "caught" Shanty's last,perfect peg with his abdomen. The outraged mollusk, briefly buried in the cushiony facade, loosed another jolt of liquid lightning, and the FBA man joined in the calisthenics of terminal torment.

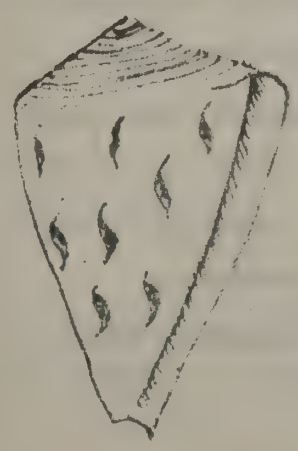
And thus the kaleidoscopic calamity had at last played itself out. The score for pyrodens on the occasion of its discovery: two skin divers, a remittance man, a sinistral shortstop, and a poi inspector. The much-tossed shell is a featured exhibit in the South Pacific Archibenthic Science Museum. Its placard, possibly written by a cricket fan, earnestly gives it credit for a triple play, 5-6-3.

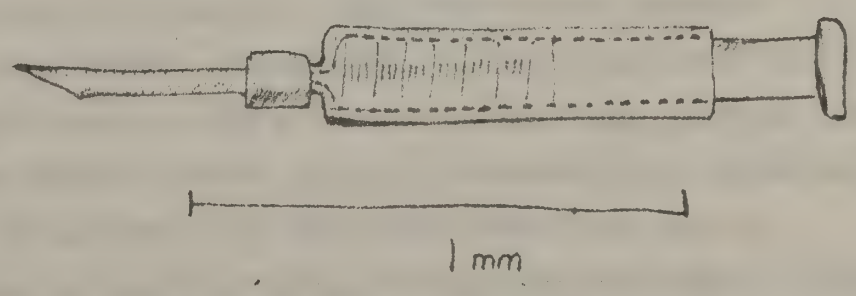
Through all of the acrobatic agonizing, Stimsoni had admirably retained his scientific detachment. His expedition log comments, for example: "Baseball player, uncommonly agile, achieved backflip with half twist." And, "Durations of four observable paroxysms, per watch and chain: 18, 11,20 and 14 seconds."

A few weeks after the unflappable investigator's return to Hayward (where he occupied the Jacques Costaud Chair of Dramatic Paramalacology) he found himself beset by two vexations. One was the immediate necessity for choosing a name for his virulent new Conus, since his paper describing it was overdue at the print shop. He had intended to name it for his benefactor, but his sister, Mrs. John, had suddenly quit the tycoon's bed and board, leaving behind only a Dear John letter - literally, a Dear Deere letter - and the bulkier furniture.

The second affliction was a toothache that made concentration difficult. But tenacity brought success. "In the nick of time," Stimsoni wrote later, "inspiration struck. It occurred to me that every time I thought of this shell, I would think of the fiery pain in that tooth. So I decided to be philosophical about it, and name the species in memory of the toothache."

Conus pyrodens (x ½)





The first known SEM illustration of the radula tooth of Conus pyrodens

The Bookfinder

This issue will have a slight departure from the normal bookfinder format, in that there will be reviews of two new books as well as the continuation of the microfiche article from last issue.

The Collector's Encyclopedia of Shells, Edited by S. Peter Dance. 288pp.

McGraw Hill Book Co., New York $19.95

S. Peter Dance's previous books have prepared us for this valuable and handsome volume. The title gives us the best clue to the intent of this Encyclopedia; it is a reference guide to the shell collector, world-wide in scope, organized in systematic order within an encyclopediac format. The word encyclopedia is perhaps a "loaded" one in the sense that one might expect that every species of mollusc is covered by this small volume.

One of the major values of this book lies in the exclusive use of color photographs associated with the descriptions of virtually all of the approximately 2000 species covered. An identification key illustrated in color and an index by family, genus and species are both provided. Mr. Dance has also included some popular names, but only those which are in relatively common or general use, and in doing so he has avoided, what is to me patronizing, use of directly translated versions of the binomial scientific names. A very rough guide to occurrance is given by indicating - common, frequent, uncommon and rare - which are not to be considered in any way a statistically probable analysis of the numbers to be found either in collections or in life. Geographical distribution is lumped within 16 well established zoogeographical provinces. In the introduction Mr. Dance touches upon systematics, biology, structure, collecting, preparation, identification and the history of shell collecting.

Several errors are easy to find, the photographs are not all of a uniform quality and some captions are transposed. While this reduces the value of the book to a slight degree, the overall value is in no great degree diminished. Some of the names are incorrect, which does impair its usefulness to many collectors.

On the whole Mr. Dance has put together a very useful book, a sort of Baedecker of the most popular families and species which come to the collector's attention, but, as with any other such guide book the value is in giving general directions, not specific addresses.

Mindful of the professional background of the author's husband I must preface the following book review by pointing out that I, as editor and as reviewer, Frank J. Nelson alone have the responsibility for any actionable statements made in either the review or in my editorial which also appears in this issue. All of the comments are made respecting the public persona of Mrs. Hodgson and are not in any way to be construed as touching in any way upon her private persona.

The Spell of the Shell, by Martha Keeling Hodgson,
Hawthorne Books, Inc., New York $14.95

If a picture is, as they say, worth a thousand words, the one on the dust-cover of this book is surely worth many thousands. Over the years, many attempts have been made, usually unsuccessfully, to explain the "lure", the "fascination", or to use the author's word, the "spell" of the seashell. And the soft muted colors and simplicity of this picture say it all, perhaps because of and not in spite of the gross imperfection in the shell. Subtly, indefinably, without a word being said, the spell is cast.

Then one opens the book, and the spell is shattered. I have tried in vain to find one redeeming feature, a single justification for this book's ever having been written. But before concentrating on the book, a further word about the dust-cover. At first glance, it appears that either this is a very unusual Strombus gigas or the picture is reversed. But closer examination reveals that what appears to be a broken lip is evidently a hole in the back of the shell, with the lip facing away from the camera.

Except for Mrs. Hodgson's arrogant comments on the "repulsive" and "stupefyingly hideous" shell pictures that she saw in Florida, I wouldn't otherwise comment too harshly on hers. I do not, myself, care for shell pictures or shell art, and I don't find hers any better or any worse than most. But I recognise this as a subjective expression of personal taste, and it is most fortunate for Mrs. Hodgson that not everyone shares my tastes. I would like to think that not everyone shares hers. But wether these pictures are sold at Upper Grosvenor Gallery or at a flea-market on the streets of New York, their value is not enhanced or diminished. Nor does the fact that many, if not most, of Mrs. Hodgson's customers are members of the titled gentry or or the upper social and economic strata attest to their worth. Good taste does not necessarily go hand in hand with position and/or wealth, a fact well borne out by Mrs. Hodgson tasteless and ill-mannered remarks about the shell art of Florida.

As to the book in general, it is basically a travelogue, and since I havn't had the good fortune to visit most of these places, I can't comment on her descriptions of them. I can only hope that her powers of observations on people, countries, and

cultures is more accurate than her observations on shells. The book is replete with inaccuracies, misinformation, misconceptions, half-truths and the perpetuation of myths, not to mention a redundancy or two.

For example, on page 55, Mrs Hodgson reports the finding of a cone that was believed at first to be " the common lettered variety (Conus litteratus) ", but which later was found to have " Two additional rows of brown spots, turning it into a collector's item, the Conus capitaneus. " I wish that I understood Mrs. Hodgson's criteria for a " collector's item" as it applies to shells. Perhaps I've been wrong in assuming that any shell, however humble and common it may be, is potentially a collector's item. But if the implication is that C. capitaneus is a much morevaluable shell, then Mrs. Hodgson has much to learn indeed. Although C. capitaneus and C. litteratus are about equal in rarity and price (both are common and low-priced), the similarity ends there. They share no resemblance whatsoever, and I fail to see how anyone could even momentarily confuse them.

On pages 36 and 37, there is an illustration, purportedly, of a growth series of Murex radix. It takes but a glance to see that the six shells are not all M. radix. And page 61 describes the finding of a Conus virgo, which, when"scraped clean is a tender pink". I have not had the good fortune to own, or even see, a pink C. virgo, and diligent searching has not turned up a single book that describes it as being pink. That would be a most interesting and desirable variety.

Page 61 also relates one of the author's most astonishing finds, Nerita peloronta in Fiji! Her humility and restraint in reporting this important fact is astonishing. Perhaps she didn't realize that she would electrify the malacological world by extending the range of this common Caribbean mollusk by many thousands of miles, across a land mass and an entire ocean. And so on, ad nauseum.

The purpose of this review is not to engage in nit-picking. Any shell book, however authoritative and excellent it may be, is bound to contain a few errors. The purpose is, however,to assist the reader in selecting books which will have value in his library.

With great modesty and appropriate humility, Mrs. Hodgson disclaims any qualification as either a conchologist or a malacologist and describes at great length her rather recent "collision" with the mollusk. But from this point on, she casts modesty to the winds and proceeds, with a heavy-handed pseudo-expertise, to demolish her previous disclaimer.

The outbreak of hostilities between Mrs. Hodgson and the mollusk appears to have occurred about the time that she was first confronted with her, then, future husband's shell collection. Patrick Hodgson's collection is said to be " a near perfect collection of shells from the beaches of West Florida", assembled painstakingly over the years during a series of visits to the area. One wonders why, then, this book

shows no evidence of the application of a restraining or guiding hand. Can it be that Mrs. Hodgson is one of those gung-ho, aggressive, "capable" women who tolerates no suggestion or interference from any one, but rather charges ahead with the supreme and God-given knowledge that she cannot be wrong?

Going beyond the numerous breaches of fact, in a narrative type book such as this, we must also comment on style. Mrs. Hodgson writes in a stilted and pompous man sprinkling her prose with much ostentatious name-dropping. If a person's title or position is relevant to the point being made, then he or she should be so identified in the text. If the title or position is not pertinent, then accenting it by footnoting is offensive and pretentious. Few people, apart from the author's relatives and close friends, give a tinker's dam whether or not Mrs. Hodgson is on close enough terms with Count and Countess So-and-So to call them Cuddles and Poopsey. A gratuitous bit of gossip (since it could only refer to one of several people) is offered in the rather lengthy reporting of a conversation between Mrs. Hodgson and the Queen Mother (N.B. no first name or pet name here), a conversation which would, in all likelihood, have gone unreported had it taken place with the kitchen maid.

Mrs. Hodgson sadly reports that, in all probability, her collecting days are about at an end, and that, with the passing years, bending has become somewhat difficult. One can only doubt that she ever found it easy.

To conclude the listing of Microfiche reprints of the Molluscan clasics that was begun in the last issue, the following Monographs are available:

MONOGRAPHS

Adams, H. and A. Adams. The genera of recent mollusca: arranged according to their organization. London (1853-) 1858. 2 Vols. 2251/2 Sfr 61 (22.84)

Baker, F.C. The mollusca of the Chicago area. Pt. 1: The Pelecypoda (Chicago Acad. Sci., Nat. Hist. Survey. Bull nr 3 pt 1, 1898. 130pp.27 pls., 1 map.). Z-257/2 Sfr 22 (8.24)

Barnard, K.H. Contributions to the knowledge of South African marine mollusca. Pt a Gastropoda, Prosobranchiata, Toxoglossa. (Annals of the South African Museum. V. 44 1958 pt.4, pp. 73-163. 1 pl.) 2841/2 Sfr 9 (3.37)

Bartsch, P. Report on the Turton Collection of South African marine mollusks. (U.S. Nat. Mus., Bill. nr. 91, 1915 XII, 305 pp, 54 pls.) Z-392/2 Sfr 20 (7.49)

Bolton, J.F. Museum Boltenianum. Pars secunda continens Conchylia (P.F. Roeding, Ed.) Preface by A.A.H. Lichtenstein (Reprint of the 1798 edition, with an Introductory note by C.D. Sherborn and E.R. Sykes).(London, 1906) VIII, 199 pp. 2252/2 Sfr 14 (5.24)

Bowerbank, J.S. Observations on the structure of the shells of molluscous and conchiferous animals,London, 1844 34pp., 5 pl. (Trans. Microscop. Soc. V 1). Z-439/2 Sfr 7 (2.62)

Broderip, W.J. Species Conchyliorum, or concise original descriptions and observations London, 1830 V.1, pt. 1 Z-444/2 Sfr 11 (4.12)

Carpenter, P.P. Lectures on mollusca. Prepared for the Smithsonian Institution. Washington, 1861 149 pp. (Ann. Rept. Smithsonian Institution. 1861) Z-467/2 Sfr 11 (4.12)

Carpenter, W.B. Report on the microscopic structure of shells. London, 1845. 24pp. 20 pl. (Brit. Assco. Rept. 1844 (1845) Z-466/2 Sfr 7 (2.62)

Catlow, A. and Reeve, L.A. The conchologists nomenclature. London, 1845. VIII, 326pp Z-468/2 Sfr 16 (5.99)

Challenger, HMS "Challenger" Expedition, London, (1878-1883) 20 pts. Mollusca By R.B. Watson (Journ. Linn. Soc. London, Zoology V 14-17) Z-852/2 Sfr 18 (6.74)

Chenu, J.C. Lecons elementaires d'historie naturelle, comprenant un apercu sur toute la zoology et un traite de conchyliologie Paris 1847 LXXXVII, 283pp, 12 pls. Z-469/2 Sfr 27 (10.11)

Chenu, J.C. Manuel de conchyliologie et de paleontologique. Paris 1859-1862 2 vols. Z-470/2 Sfr 53 (19.85)

Conrad, T.A. Fossil shells of the Tertiary formations of North America. Republication Ed. with an introduction by W.H. Dall. Philadelphia, 1893 136 pp., 49 pl. Z-478/2 Sfr 14 (5.24)

Conrad, T.A. New fresh water shells of the United States, Philadelphia, 1834. 76pp. 9 pls. Z-477/2 Sfr 9 (3.37)

Dall, W.H. A monograph of the mollusca fauna of the Orthaulax pugnax zone of the Oligocene of Tampa, Fla. (United States National Museum Bulletin no. 90 1915 XV 173 pp., 26 pls.) Z-489/2 Sfr 14 (5.24)

Dall, W.H. And Bartsch, P. A monograph of West American Pyramidellid Mollusks (United States National Museum, Bulletin no. 68, 1909, XII, 258 pp., 30 pls.) Z-165/2 Sfr 16 (5.99)

Dall, W.H. and Simpson, C.T. The Mollusca of Puerto Rico. (Bull. of the U.S. Fish Comm. 1900 V. 20pp., 351-524, pls 53-58). Z-165/2 Sfr 16 (5.99)

Dillwyn, L.W. A descriptive catalogue of recent Shells. London, 1817. 2 vols. XII, 1092 (29) pp. 2496/2 Sfr 46 (17.23)

Forbes, E. and S.C.T. Hanley. A history of British Mollusca and their Shells. London (1848-) 1853. 4 Vols. Z-532/2 Sfr 96 (35.95)

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This is a pretty full issue, and it's the first one typed on our new machine, which should reproduce better than the old one did. You'll notice though that the letter "M" on certain of the pages seemingly jumps all over the lines, that has been repaired at some considerable loss of time and the machine can now produce quite good looking copy. The new Typewriter is an IBM Executive model and has more gadgetry than my car, which accounts for the less than professional look of much of the copy. I'll improve with time and will hope to have better looking work with it in future issues.

Notice that with this Issue we're using a newly designed masthead, which features a drawing by Gary Magnotte with typography by me. Mike Werner is back with a refreshingly different view of Taxonomy, and Bill, Old has some advice on the type of questions that one should ask of Curators. I've also included something which I'm hoping can become a regular feature, a self guided Field Trip map and some background information concerning trips that can be undertaken in small groups or entirely alone, if you have a favorite shelling or fossiling place please send me some notes about it for inclusion in this column.

Speaking out

Frank J. Nelson

The Convention is over - nearly two months ago - and here I am writing about it, while it seems remarkably fresh in my mind. Perhaps due to one or more ingredients (secret, of course) of Garbage Can Punch is responsible, but more likely it was the fun that all of us had there. One of our members who attended wrote the following which appeared in the Long Island Shell Club News for October 1975: -

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA CONVENTION

by Martin Lerner

I recently had the good fortune to attend the Fourth Annual Convention of the Conchologists of America at Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The COA is the only national organization devoted exclusively to shell collectors. While the American Malacological Union (AMU) and the Western Society of Malacologists (WSM) are technical organizations catering to the professional malacologist and the more advanced conchologist, the COA deals with the collector, be he expert or amateur.

Like the other organizations, the COA also had presentations at the meetings. However, these presentations dealt with topics close to the heart of the average shell collector. There were slide presentations dealing with shell collecting trips and with different shell families. The entire emphasis is upon the shell collector.

The social camaraderie was wonderful to see and it was interesting to meet people whom I had only corresponded with previously such as Kirk Anders, Tom Rice, and Richard Kurtz. There were members present from all parts of the country including California, Oregon, Wisconsin, Florida, and of course New York.

As the COA is the only national organization dealing with shell collectors it is certainly worth joining. The membership fee is only $3.00 per year, which is a small price to pay for the newsletter which is published periodically through out the year. And of course, if you get the opportunity to attend a convention by all means do so ..... it is a wonderful experience.

Honestly the only thing that I can add to Marty's short statement is Hear ...Hear!

A Foul Story, By Robert B. Aronson
from Machine Design, July 24th 1975

Those that go down to the sea in ships have always carried with them the curse of an ugly little animal - a crustacean of the subgroup cirripedia - the common barnacle. This marine beast has a rather simple life style. He anchors himself to an object and stays there, quietly living out his days grabbing any food that happens to float his way. The problem is that when a family of barnacles decides to call a ship's hull a home it can be quite a drag.

In the days of wooden ships, the hulls had to be pulled laboriously ashore or careened so that barnacles could be chipped off by hand. Later, copper plating on the hull helped some. In more recent times, hull paints have been developed that contain barnacle poisons (arsenic, mercury, tin). They retard marine growth, but are not totally successful.

Today most ships need a cleaning and repainting at least once every two years. Before the oil crisis, ship owners could absorb the fuel losses within this two-year cycle. Increased fuel bills due to fouling typically ranged from 1% after 9 months to 5% at 2 years. With the fuel bill for a modern tanker now running about $3 million a year, other cleaning methods are being investigated.

So far, the most successful device is the "Scamp", a robot that rolls along the ship's hull and scrubs off unwanted growth. Built by Butterworth Systems, Inc., an Exxon company, scamp will clean your tanker in about 16 hours for about $5,500.

A company called Product Development Services Inc., Fairfield, Conn., has done a feasibility study on a design that reportedly would be more efficient than Scamp, and is currently looking for backers.

A slightly more dynamic idea is Sea Mesh, a system in which a mesh of plastic-covered explosive cord is floated around a ship. Theoretically, when the cord is detonated, the concussion knocks the barnacles off the hull. In practice, there have been a few bugs in the barnacle blaster. After one test, according to a report in Business Week, "the blast had not only blown off barnacles, but had also cracked toilets on the ship, shattered light bulbs, and moved some new bulkheads ...."

Undaunted by this slight miscalculation, the U.S. Navy is continuing to test a Sea Mesh, apparently with some success. Because none of these systems seems entirely satisfactory, however, and since there is no end in sight for fuel-price increases, anyone who has been hoarding an idea for a better barnacle trap should make his move now.

Field Trip to the Keys
by Mari Hughes

On June 20 and 21, the Palm Beach County Shell Club and the Broward County Shell Club members met for an evening shelling trip and social get-together in Marathon. The weather was perfect, with spurts of rain. The moon was full and we enjoyed watching it rise and also enjoyed beautiful sunset. The tide was low and the water clear.

On the trip we stopped in the woods on Key Largo and picked Liguus the Florida tree snail. A short shower had them out walking. Since our last trip, there are new miles of telephone poles, fewer trees, much new building of home sites, camp grounds and canals. We also collected branches from the Lisa Loma and Mahogany trees to take home, where we then planted them on trees in our outdoor room.

Next we stopped at Tom's Harbor bridge and collected Barbados Keyhole limpets on the rocks at high tide. After checking into a motel we walked to the water on the Atlantic side for Chiton tuberculatus.

I had two guests from Massachusetts who were new to this area - Helen Chebator and Roland Gaudet. It's a great satisfaction to guide enthusiastic new shellers and observe their first finds.

At the Palms Motel we met Mr. and Mrs. Slattery, the new managers. They and the new owner hosted a lovely party for us all. Most guests stayed at the Palms, some next-door at the Ranch, and some camped.

Of the many children involved, it was just great to see their knowledge-ability in identifying their finds.

The main trip for our group consisted of driving to Key West and boating to a reef about eight miles out. There were 22 of us in four boats --- one owned by Dr. Marvin Glickstein, our field trip chairman, and three rentals. The fee was $ 75.00 for four hours. There were no ladders nor any way to get in or out easilly So, we jumped in, and had to look up and disturb a busy man to get back in when we had to even blow our noses. This hurts the ego, so it would have been worth the effort to arrange for fuller equipment.

One member got two Strombus gigas and one Cassis madagascarensis and so far as I know these were the only large shells collected. My previous collecting of all large shells in the Keys was from turtle grass in the shallows. Some of us took coral - up to five pounds allowed - for home tanks.

On this trip I got only small shells but was very happy with Cyphoma gibbosum, which live about five days in our tank a Cypraea cinerea, a very fat (?) Astraea phoebia, two Calliostoma euglyptum, four Conus regius, a Cypraecassis testiculus, some Clamys sentis, and a Murex.

My 12-year old niece, Connie Wysocki from Massachusetts on her first trip to the Keys, found ten adult tulips and a few whelks.

At night on the low tide, nine of us went out turning rocks for Cypraea and we got 12, small in size but adult.

Among the many fellow-collectors I enjoyed meeting on this excursion was Margaret Teskey.

On the way home I got a lovely blue and white nudibranch and he seems happy feeding on brine shrimp.

The "sound of silence" under water was, as usual, just too beautiful to describe. The night shelling was eerie with only the sound of lapping waves and snapping shrimp.

All in all it was a grand jaunt and everyone enjoyed it!

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Information, Please
by William E. Old.

The following little dramas are true. Only the names have been deleted to protect the innocent (?).

"I am going to Sanibel. Who will buy the shells I find?"
"What?"
"I read that rare shells could be found on Sanibel, and I'm on my way!"

*

"My daughter has a pet clam. We know they should be kept in salt water, so we salted it. Now, what do we feed it?"
" You can't. Clams are 'suspension feeders' and ....."
"Suspension? Oh, I see. I'll hang a piece of tender liver for it to snap at! Bye!"
"Oh hell."

*

"I want to find out what this shell is worth."
"This isn't a shell. It's ivory carved in the shape of a clam. It's called a netsuke."
"I don't want to dispute you, but my uncle said it was a shell, and he should know."

*

"My friend's husband is going to the Pacific. Tell me, what rare shells can he bring his wife?"

*

"What is the book with all the shells in it?"
"It doesn't exist."
(After deep thought) "Oh! You are writing it!"
"I didn't say that."
"Oh."

*

"My grandfather was a whaling captain in the 19th Century, and he was shipwrecked in the Pacific. He collected shells until he was rescued. Now I want to sell the shells. Here are photos, what are the shells worth?"
"Not much, I'm afraid. Also, all of the shells in these pictures are from Florida and the Caribbean."

*

"We're going to the Great Barrier Reef to make a complete collection of Volutes. Any suggestions?"
'What is your background? Have you ever shelled before?"
(Smugly) " We have a Volute Book."
" It just might not be as easy as you think. Have you considered how many Australians have lived and collected there all of their lives and havn't found 'all' the Volutes?"
'We never thought of that. We thought all you had to do was to go there and pick 'em up."

*

" My grandfather was a sea captain from a whaling port in Florida in 1820."
" That's interesting."
" Isn't it?"
" No, your statement that there was a whaling port in Florida in 1820. That was a year after we acquired Florida from Spain."
" Well, all I know is that's the way the story is told in the family."
" And .....?"
" He was shipwrecked in the Pacific, and collected shells ...."
" That sounds familiar."
" What?"

*

" My house is so full of shells. I want to sell some of them. Who will buy them?"
" What kind of shells are they?"
" Rare Shells"
" Name some."
" Oh I couldn't do that. I don't know any names."
" Why do you think that they are rare?"
" They must be!"

*

" Do you send photographers out to take movies? I have two snails that are reproducing, and it's so interesting. How long does it take for the eggs to hatch?"
"What kind of snails are they?"
" Brown ones I found near the trail in the Alps."
" That could cover a lot of species, since many land snails are brown in color."
" They might not be spawning after all. When I feed them bananas, the streamers are light in color, and when I feed them carrots the deposits are dark."

*

" I have two large seashells in which I display flowers. Lately the shells have started to leak. Where can I get them repaired?"
"There isn't anyone who does that."
" Don't you have a list?"

*

" These shells have no value. You don't have any data with them."
"Data? What's that?" (Explanation follows)
" Well! You should know that your self!"

*

"I have some shells that have faded. What is the liquid that will restore them to their original color?"
"There isn't one."
"Oh, you know. But you won't tell me."

*

"[illegible] the 'great white-toothed cowry.' It said that there were only three of them known. Well, I have 13 of them."

"Who identified the shells?"

"No one. But I hope they are valuable. Frankly, I need the money."

*

"My great grandfather was a sea captain."

"That sounds familiar."

"What? Well, we have some shells that he collected about the year 1820. Richard, do you have any idea what they would be worth?"

"Probably nothing. By now they would be faded, and chipped from generations of handling ....."

"Oh, they look pretty good to me."

*

"Do you want to buy a coral reef?"

"A coral reef? Where is it?"

"Right here in front of me."

"How big is it?"

"About sixteen inches high. I bought it and don't want it anymore."

"Afraid that I'm not interested in coral."

"You ought th buy it. I want to sell it."

*

"I brought a shell back from Key West, and now it smells. What is the solution that will dissolve the meat and take away the odor?"

"Didn't it occur to you that any solution that strong would affect the shell?"

"No, I never thought of that."

*

"We found some clams on the beach and want to know how to keep them alive."

"That's very difficult. You really need an open circuit aquarium set up, and they are filtration feeders!"

"Whats all of that mean?" (Explanation follows)

(Suspiciously) "They weren't doing all that you say when we found them on the beach. How did they feed there?"

*

"My father was a pilot in the Pacific during World War II."

"Was he a captain by any chance?"

"Why, yes. How did you know?"

"Just guessed. This sounds like a new blade for an old saw."

"At any rate, he was downed over an uninhabited island in the Fiji group. He collected golden cowries until he was rescued."

"I'd like to see them."

"Oh, no. He never shows them to anyone."

*

A few corollaries may be formed from the preceding:

There is a magic solution for cleaning and/or restoring shells.
Clams are difficult to maintain in the home.
Whaling and sailing ships were woefully undermanned.
It is widely believed that the value of shells increases with age.
1820 was a good year for shells.
Rare shells are where you find them.

Just as I always thought, a curator's life is just one round of adventures, separated by dopey questions.

Ed.

Application for membership in The American Malacological Union, Inc.

Make check for type of membership desired payable to AMU Inc. and send to Mrs. Hollis Boone, Recording Secretary, 3706 Rice Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77005

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OPENS "MOLLUSKS AND MANKIND" EXHIBIT

A new, permanent exhibit unveiled by the American Museum of Natural History in mid-December is by far the most sophisticated presentation on mollusks ever seen in the New York City institution. The product of three year's work, it is described by Dr. William K. Emerson, the malacologist who supervised the creation of "Mollusks and Mankind", as an attempt to reveal the interrelationships between his discipline and those of archeology and ethnology. Dr. Emerson is a curator in the Museum's Department of Fossil and Living Invertebrates.

The exhibit is further described as the only one of its kind in the country. Occupying a small hall of its own, "Mollusks and Mankind" depicts the ways in which the mollusk has made its imprint on the arts, the sciences, religious observance, and many humbler aspects of daily life. The elements making up the series of displays include shells, models of shells and anatomic structures, photographs, diagrams, two continuously running motion pictures - one a read-out generated by an analog computer - a slide show, and a great variety of artifacts and art objects.

The exhibit assumes no familiarity between the museum visitor and the mollusk. For those who "never knew where shells came from" the first stopper in the hall is a free-standing case that asks and answers the question, "What is a mollusk?" Part of the answer is a portrayal, using shells and models, of the seven classes. In the same case is offered the only out-and-out obeisance to ooh-and-ah. Under the heading "Snails, Snails, Snails" is an imaginative display of a few dozen beauties. Getting back to business, adjacent wall cases take up molluscan biology, in aspects ranging from life cycles and anatomy to pearls. The computer read-out simulates, via motion diagrams, the geometry of shell growth in the several gastropod morphs, and in bivalvia. The last of the introductory displays outlines world distribution of mollusks, the major variations of habitat, and adaptive responses. The movie, titled "Mollusks in Motion," presents about five minutes of such intrigues as the capture of prey by cones, tulips and horse conchs, and of scallops executing their "aerial" acrobatics.

With the basics and dramatics thus covered, the aim swings to the exhibit's theme. In the mini-gallery given over to "Mollusks in Art Forms" the eye-catcher is a huge color photo, back-lighted, of a shell grotto. Art objects, many of them lent to the Museum for this exhibit, illustrate the role of the shell in art, as s design inspiration or as an actual inclusion in jewelry and other esthetic creations. The conchologist gets his recognition, and the viewer an eyeful, in a case titled Collector's Items.

Artifacts become the key elements in displays showing shells as religious symbols, spiritual talismans and emblems of nobility; as money and evidence of wealth; and as utensils, weapons, decorations and dye sources. Mollusks as table delicacies and as ingredients in homeopathic medicines are also covered. A replica vertical section of a shell midden discovered on Japan's seacoast shows how it reveals the nature and timing of climatic changes over past centuries.

Overlooking the fact that it doesn't even breathe the word "schistosomiasis," "Mollusks and Mankind" is a comprehensive, ingenious, and arresting view of the phylum and its multifarious impacts on the genus Homo, most attractively presented.

Milton Werner

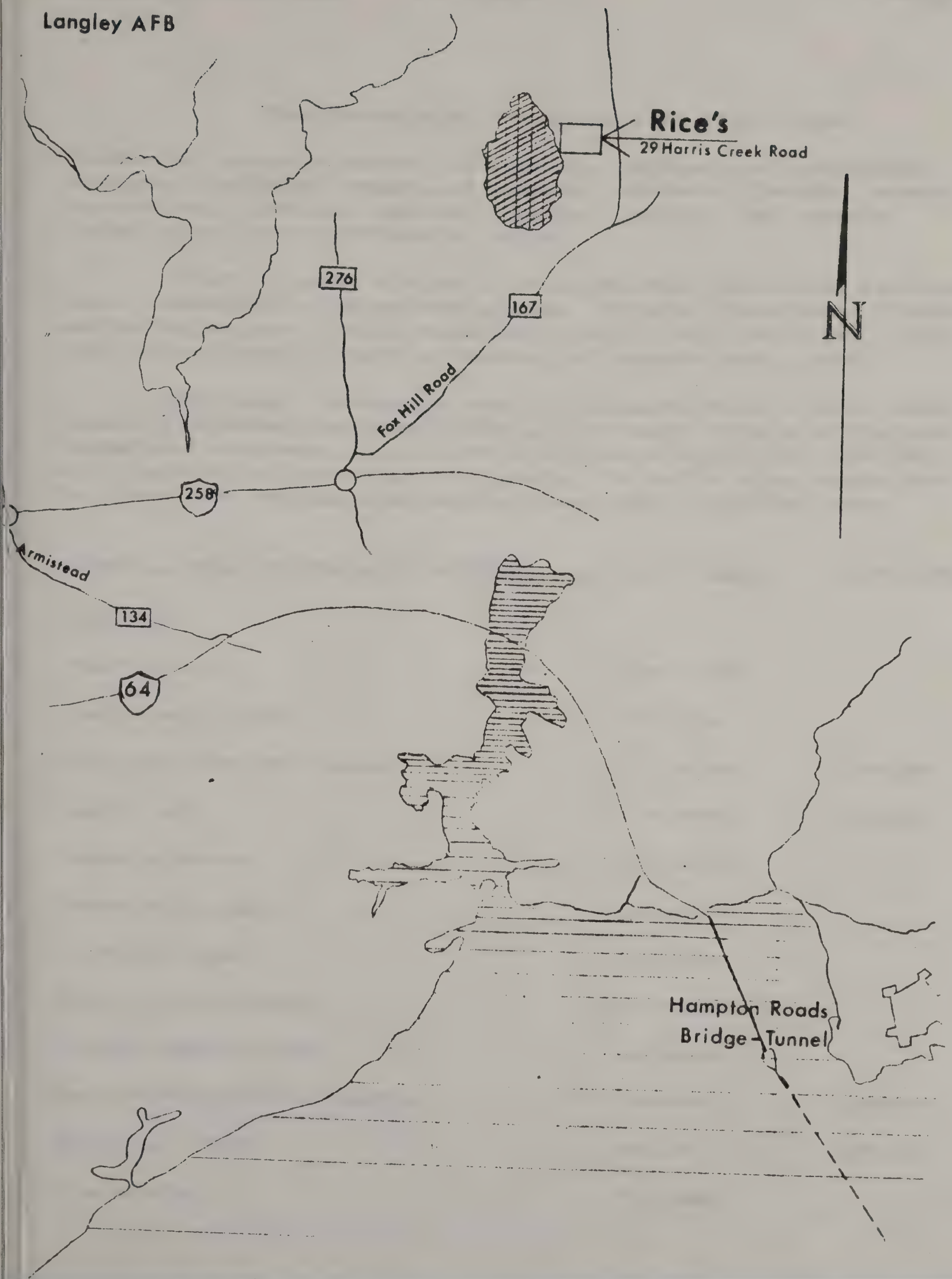
1975 Supplement to AMERICAN MALACOLOGISTS

300 additional biographies of living and deceased amateur conchologists and professional malacologists appear in the new 1975, 100-page, supplement to the very informative and useful AMERICAN MALACOLOGISTS. The latest address changes are given for the 1,000 biographees listed in the first edition. Few, if any, of the prominent mollusk scientists of America are missing. Over 50 paleoconchologists are now included, as well as many new shellfishery experts, and numerous amateur shell collectors, many of whom are willing to correspond or exchange. The supplement sells for $2.00 (postage paid). Good news: there is a paperback edition (fully sewn, so it won't fall apart) now available for only $4.95. Send check for both to "American Malacologists", Box 4208, Greenville, Del. 19807.

SELF GUIDED FIELD TRIP
Warren Redford

Why not take a "Self Guided Field Trip" to Rice's Pit? It is open week-days from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM and Sundays from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. For individuals the fee is $0.75 per hour, with special group rates arranged. For a tour of the museum on the property call ahead and make an appointment: Hampton, Va. 851-3180. See the attached map for directions. (The map and the above are adapted from : Norfolk Gem and Mineral Association's paper The Lamit.)

Langley AFB


Rice's
29 Harris Creek Road
276
167
Fox Hill Road
N
258
Armistead
134
64
Hampton Roads
Bridge-Tunnel

Exoskeletons in the Family Closet, by Milton Werner

The Family: product of paternity and maternity, consequence of consanguinity, wellspring of posterity, foundation of continuity, receptacle of heredity, repository of affinity, similarity, uniformity - yet font of variety. And, properly abused, source of some mild hilarity, maybe.

To wit: Suppose, with your collecting expertise, you discover a new species. It fits, beyond quibble, into an existing genus. But your brilliant research throws new light on the genus, and you realize that it should go into a new family. So you erect the new family, and maybe a subfamily, and you name them ... what?

Don't panic. Sometimes a name sort of suggests itself, as in the recent instances, guaranteed genuine and authentic, listed below. (By an astonishing concatenation of coincidence, all of the new specific names were already in the literature associated with one or more other genera.) Be the first savant on your block to scribble these revisions in the margins of your musty old reference tomes.

GENUS and NEW SPECIES & SUBSPECIES	NEW FAMILY	NEW SUBFAMIL
<u>Gastropoda</u>		
Melampus bulbus	Electricidae	
Arabica tenta plicata	Mobilidae	
Gaza telescopium periscopiana	Curiosidae	Scrutinae
Lunatia clara	Debussidae	Euphinae
Caecum arestrum	Necessidae	
Cassis clayi pugilis	Loquacidae	
Fenimorea cooperi	Prolixidae	
Conus chocolatus flavus	Hotziggidae	
Neverita candei deliciosa	Austeridae	
Depressiscala ponderosa bigemma	Obesidae	Gluttinae
Siphonaria breweri	Satiidae	Germinae
Oliva martini	Thirsidae	

Bivalvia

Tapes whitehousei	Duplicidae	Ignominae
Discors ziczac	Ambiguidae	
Carditella fortunei	Gullibilidae	
Cuspidaria brassica	Gentilidae	
Lopha lasius extraordinarius	Torpididae	
Musculus adonis	Virilidae	
Rangia ponderosa	Televisioncidae	

Freshwater Gastropoda

Burnupia brazieri	Nonconformidae	
Pila sandwichensis cervus	Hospitalidae	
Stanleya neglecta anna	Perversidae	Misoginae
Cleopatra lurida histrio	Notoriidae	
Spekia vulgaris	Profanidae	

Freshwater Bivalvia

Sphaerium globosum	Rotundidae
Lampsilis filamentosus	Luminosidae

"...thou better name / than all the family of fame!" Ode to Tranquillidae
S.T. Coleridge

A BYE LAW / CONSTITUTION VOTE ISSUE:

" Be it resolved that the dual office of Secretary/ Treasurer be divided and become two separate offices, with one of the positions held by a person from an entirely different geographical area of the United States than the other.

In other words if the Secretary comes from the Eastern U.S. then the Treasurer should come from the west or vice-versa, since we are the only nation wide Shell Club devoted to the Shell Collector a better distribution of National Officers will help in broadening the base of collectors for whom we exist.

Please send your vote to the Secretary Kathleen Daniels in time for her to cast the absentee votes at the convention business meeting.

COA CONVENTION - 1975

The fourth annual convention of the Conchologists of America was held from Saturday, Oct. 4th through Tuesday, Oct. 7th, at the Windjammer Motor Lodge in Virginia Beach, Virginia with 35 members and guests attending.

After a morning of registration, socializing and "settling in" our Convention Chairman, Bob Janowsky, welcomed everyone and opened the convention at 1:30PM with a few words from our President, Tom Rice. The afternoon passed quickly as we were engrossed in the fascinating and informative slide presentations given; accounts of collecting expeditions, a photographic survey of the Marginellidae, and an in-depth look at an exquisite shell collection were the major topics of the first session. The day ended with a cocktail party hosted by Tom, providing an evening of good companionship, lively conversation, and an inexhaustable flow of "garbage can punch", as we attempted to forget that we'd be rising early the next morning.

Sunday's program was a full one, with papers scheduled from 8:30 - 11:00AM, in order to insure a prompt departure for our field trip to Rice's Fossil Pit. The bus left at noon with everyone in high spirits, eagerly anticipating their finds. Fossils of the Upper Miocene were originally discovered in Rice's Pit as a result of commercial excavation; in order that they could be preserved for educational purposes the Rice family halted all excavation and opened the pit to the public for a nominal charge. We all had a marvelous afternoon, digging and scraping for treasures, and returned with many fine examples of those relics of another era.

Back at the Windjammer, we just had time for a brief look at our finds before gathering in the Motel dining room for a no-host cocktail hour and our banquet, followed by our annual auction. Donations had again been very generous and a glance at the table revealed Marginella pringlei, Voluta ebraea, Ecphora quadricostata, Murex textilis, Conus genuanus, Pecten nodosus, and Murex elongatus, as well as many other desireable species. With Bob behind the table as auctioneer the bidding was lively and fast paced, and after the last shell had been sold and the last joke told, the COA treasury had been enriched by $680.50.

A morning of papers was on the agenda for Monday morning followed by a bus trip to Colonial Williamsburg. We spent a pleasant afternoon wandering through the shops and buildings of this restored town, then, all too soon, we had to board the bus for our return to the modern world. After dinner we had an informative seminar on shell photography, followed by a concerted effort to polish off the "garbage can punch".

Tuesday morning began with our final slide presentation and a look at some of the previous COA conventions, followed by the business meeting. The convention officially adjourned at 11:15AM with the close of the businessmeeting, and we were all sorry to see it end as we had had a marvelous time and made many new and lasting friendships.

Dorothy Janowsky

Minutes of the Bu iness Meeting, D. Janowsky

The business meeting of the fourth annual COA convention was called to order by our President, Tom Rice, at 10: 20AM on Tuesday, October 7th. Tom expressed his thanks to everyone who had contributed to the success of the convention and especially to our host and hostess, George and Wylda Stephens. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted and we moved on to old business.

It was mentioned that the Conchologists of Southeast Asia - Bangkok Chapter, which held its formative meeting a year ago, had experienced difficulty in obtaining the necessary permits to meet as a club and consequently was unable to continue as an organization.

Tom then spoke of the necessity to increase our membership during the coming year, and opened the topic for a general discussion from the floor. It was decided that one of the duties of the Vice-President would be to coordinate the efforts of the organization in its membership drive.

The nominating committee - Chairman Wayne Stevens, Kathleen Daniels and Marty Lerner - presented the following slate of officers for 1976:

President	William Bledsoe
Vice-President	Dorothy Janowsky assisted by Robert Janowsky
Secretary/Treasurer	Kathleen Daniels

A vote was called for and the entire slate was unanimously elected. It was suggested that the membership consider electing separate officers as Secretary and Treasurer for the year 1977 in anticipation of the greater amount of time required for each office due to increased membership.

Speaking briefly of the beauties of the Pacific Northwest, Wayne Stevens issued an invitation to the COA to hold its 1976 convention in Portland, Oregon, and read invitations extended to us by the Portland Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor of Portland, and the Governor of Oregon. A motion was made and accepted to meet in Portland next year and Wayne was elected as Convention Chairman.

It was suggested that the COA should be a member of both the Western Society of Malacologists and the American Malacological Union. As we arealready in the AMU a motion was made and approved that we also join the WSM.

As our final item of business, a vote of heartfelt thanks was given to Wylda and George Stephens for everything they did to make this such an enjoyable time for us all.

The meeting was adjourned at 11: 15AM.

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA - TREASURER'S REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1974

Balance December 31, 1973:		$ 417.44
Receipts -		
Dues	381.00	
Auction	839.25	
	1220.25	
		1220.25
		1637.69
Expenses -		
Printing of Bulletin	244.65	
Mailing	107. 15	
Addressograph Machines	80.00	
Stationary	26.00	
Convention Expenses	133.85	
	591.65	591.65
Alaan Balance as of December 31, 1974		1046.04
Current Membership	101	
Current Balance as of September 30, 1975		1017.20

THE C.O.A. CONVENTION 1976, PREVIEW OF PLANS:

The place will be Portland, Ore. and the dates June 16th thru June 20th • 1976, at the Thunderbird Motel. The Western Society of Malacologist's will be convening at Pacific Grove, Calif. beginning on June 23rd, which will permit attending both meetings . The room rates will be $23.00 single, $28.00 double, and $30.00 on the view side or for rooms with two queen size beds.

Adjacent to the Hotel is a home trailer court from whom we have a promise of reserving six spaces for those members attending by trailer, prices are not now available for these accomodations.

Several field trips have been planned by our Convention Chairpersons Wayne and Marjorie Stevens, a boat trip up the Columbia River to and thru the Bonneville Dam with a visit to the dam and the fish hatchery with the return trip via the scenic highway down the Columbia passing a myriad of magnificant waterfalls, another trip planned for is a caravan or bus trip to the Oregon Coast for some shelling and while on this trip we'll take in the Rose Test Gardens in full bloom, (tides and weather are being arranged for by Wayne with considerable assistance from God and the weatherman.) .

The Bookfinder

The Fascinating World of the Sea, by Elva D. Sheets, Crown Publishers, Inc. New York, $ 14.95

Elva Sheets surely did not set out a quarter of a century ago, on her way to the ocean for the first time, with the sole aim of bringing the wonders of the sea to those who were unable to experience them first hand. But regardless of when the thought first occurred to her, she has quite successfully fulfilled her stated purpose with the writing of this book.

The Fascinating World of the Sea is a simple, easy to read book that gives the beginner a starting place in learning about the ocean, marine life and related subjects. In addition to an extensive section on mollusks and shell collecting, there are thumbnail sketches of a wide variety of other marine life, as well as explanations of coastal formation, wave action, tidal movement, etc. And Mrs. Sheets has liberally illustrated the text with many excellent photographs.

In a book of this type, it isn't surprising to find a few minor errors caused by the condensation and simplification of the material, but in general, the material presented is fairly accurate. There are, however, a few subjects that might have been researched a bit more thoroughly. For example, in speaking of cone shells, the author describes the harpoon and venom sac of the "poisonous" cones as opposed to the common toothed radula of the "non-poisonous" cones. Mrs. Sheets is evidently unaware that all cones have the poison dart and venom, and that their danger to man corresponds to their feeding habits, mainly, (the piscivorous cones having a venom that could be fatal to any vertebrate including man) and size (the larger the cone, the more venom) .

A book on such a broad subject obviously cannot cover everything, and the author must decide what will be included and what omitted. This beinga matter of personal choice, each person would no doubt choose differently. But I think that Mrs. Sheets has exaggerated the problem of taxonomic changes in the statement that by the time a book is five years old, it is "outdated in so many areas that it can no longer be used with confidence". One has only to consider the great demand for classics such as the Manual of Conchology to see the fallacy in that statement. The novice collector might easilly be discouraged, thinking that every few years he faces the purchase of a new set of bookswithout any hope of keeping up with the changes.

In the last chapter there are many useful hints on collecting, cleaning and storing shells. But Mrs. Sheets advocates the use of several dangerous substances with little or no word of caution on their use. She does warn that lye can injure the hands and that various chemicals can harm metal utensils and destroy shells. But she neglects to say what such things as Chloride of Lime, Chloroform and Carbon-tetra chloride , improperly handled, can do to the collector.

Being mindful of the sensitivity of many people, I hesitate to mention an aspect of the book that I find personally offensive. Mrs. Sheets seems to feel compelled to constantly inject her religious beliefs into the text. Unfortunately too many people condone this practice when the author's convictions correspond with their own. My objection has nothing to do with the validity of Mrs. Sheets' beliefs but rather with the fact that this is not the proper forum for the expounding of any religious point of view whatever it may be. Further, I think that scientists, as a group, might find the implications unpalatable. The author ascribes a deep religious feeling to the "naturalist" as opposed to the scientist, who, by implication then, cannot have a religious conviction.

My principle criticism of the book is an observation rather than a comment on its worth. Much has been made of the fact that this lady travelled 185,000 miles and suffered many hardships in gathering material for the book. Yet I find very little for which she ever needed to leave home. One could spend a lifetimestanding on a beach watching the tide go in and out without understanding the forces behind it. Just as one could spend years in and on the water in total ignorance of the habits, background, life cycle, anatomy, physiology, etc. of many of the creatures in it, however keen one's observations. In short, most of this material could have been obtained from textbooks or from visits to a local library. Mrs. Sheets has referred a number of times to her forthcoming companion book. We can only hope that it will bring more of the adventures and personal observations so conspicuously absent from this one. The greatest value of this book, then, lies not in what it has to say but in Mrs. Sheets' enthusiasm and in the interest that she can generate in the beginner to motivate him to a deeper study of the subject.

Lee Nelson

Numerical Taxonomy, The Principles and Practice of Numerical Classification, Peter H.A. Sneath and Robert R. Sokal, W.H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco, Calif. xv + 573pp, 81 Illustrations & 9 Tables. 1973 $22.50

Taxonomy is one of those words, we use it to cover a wide number of things, many of which are by no stretch of the imagination included in its definition. Taxonomy as used by Simpson in Principles of Animal Taxonomy, means "the theoretical study of classification, including its bases, principles, procedures and rules", also that "classification is the ordering of organisms into groups (or sets) on the basis of their relationships" - from these definitions and several others Sneath and Sokal proceed to a discussion of the meaning of Numerical Taxonomy as they propose to use it throughout the rest of the book.

From a historical point of view the authors discuss the concepts of Michel Adanson (1727-1806) a French botanist, which may be said to underlie the concepts of modern numerical taxonomy and the almost negligable impact of evolutionary theory untill well into the twentieth century.

The entire book covers, by chapter, in detail The Aims and Principles of Numerical Taxonomy, Taxonomic Principles, Taxonomic Evidence, Taxonomic Resemblence, Taxonomic Structure, Identification and Discrimination, Implications for Nomenclature and Numerical Taxonomy in other fields than Biological Systematics, together with an entire chapter devoted to a critical examination of Numerical Taxonomy. The final chapters of text is a discussion of what the authors feel that the future of systematics will be during the next decade.

A coverage of numerical taxonomy , of necessity, requires a considerable dependance on mathematical methods and definitions, which will present a stumbling block to the reader without some college level mathematical training. The complexity of the interrelations of taxonometric criteria require computer methods of data handling to be used, as does the great number of criteria which can be dealt with.

Many fields other than biological ones have been very successfully analysed by the methods of numerical taxonomy, which has proven to be a powerful tool in such diverse disciplines as ecology, biogeography, medicine, the social sciences and even to specific material within the Arts and Humanities. The authors have provided a lengthy appendix listing the applications of numerical taxonomy in the field of Biological Systematics (since 1956) which covers almost every area of Zoology and Botany.

An extensive Bibliography is included which will provide the interested reader with an opportunity to see how these principles are related to the actual practice of classification in specific cases.

If you do not understand Taxonomy or what philosophical concepts underlie it, read this book, it will not be easy, but, it will be well worth the effort.

Frank Nelson

Occasional Papers on Mollusks
The Department of Mollusks
Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Volume 4 Number 51 Proserpine Snails of the Greater Antilles (Prosobranchia; Helicinidae) by Kenneth J. Boss and Morris K. Jacobson

A systematic monograph of the distribution of the subfamily Proserpininae in the islands of Jamaica and Cuba, with a discussion of the phylogeny of the group. Proserpina s.s. and Despoenella are a unique group of land snails which having lost the operculum have a mantle which may be extended to cover the shell in a manner similar to the marine Cowries.

Volume 4 Number 52 Catalogue of the Taxa of the Subfamily Proserpininae (Prosobranchia; Helicinidae) by Kenneth J. Boss and Morris K. Jacobson

An adjunct to the monographic treatment of the Proserpininae found in the Greater Antilles, listing all of the species referable to this subfamily of Helicinidae from the Tropical New World.

Volume 4 Number 53 Felipe Poey with a Catalogue of the Mollusca described by him. by Kenneth J. Boss and Morris K. Jacobson

A biography of one of the Renaissance Men of the ninteenth century, a Cuban of many talents little known in the United States, with a catalogue of the mollusca atributed to him.

Volume 4 Number 54 R. Ellsworth Call with a bibliography of his works on Mollusks and a Catalogue of his Taxa, by Richard I. Johnson bound with William A. Marsh, his introduced Taxa of Unionidae or Freshwater Mussels, by Richard I. Johnson.

Biographies and catalogues of the Taxa of two ninteenth century American students of the Freshwater Molluscan Fauna of the Mid-west.

Frank Nelson

Principles of Hydrology 2nd, Ed. R.C. Ward McGraw-Hill Book Co. (UK) Ltd. Publication date 9/75 xvi + 367pp Numerous Text Figures and Tables, $15.00

As conchologists we are always aware of the portion of the earth's water which makes up the oceans, and those bodies of fresh water in which mollusks live; but we do not normally concern ourselves with all of the other aspects of the study of the earth's water system.

Hydrology as a separate discipline is relatively new and does not have a vast, long standing body of historical bibliography. Mr. Ward's book is a comprehensive coverage of all of the components which go into making the entire subject of Hydrology. The introduction goes from a brief history of Hydrology, through an explanation of the hydrological cycle and a discussion of the systems approach to the subject. The rest of the book is concerned with precipitation, interception, evaporation, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, ground water, runoff and the drainage basin, each of which is treated in detail in its own chapter. There is some mathematical treatment but not so much that the reader with a non-mathematical background will be unable to follow the text, and those equations which are included are clearly explained for the general reader. One of the great strengths of this book lies in the extensive bibliographies which are included at the end of each chapter, covering the most recent and modern ideas in each subject covered.

This is a book which I would heartily recommend as the one book which a general collection of books relating to the natural sciences should contain in order to have a balance between the interrelating disciplines which make up what in a simpler day was called Natural History.

Frank Nelson

For those of you unable to attend the Virginia Beach Convention the presentations were:

Saturday Afternoon October 4th

Kirk Anders	Slides of Shelling in Costa Rica
William Bledsoe	Selected Shells from his own Collection
Nick Katsaras	Marginella Species and Maximum and Minimum sizes of Cypraea.
Bill Old	The Americipagos Expedition to Peru and the Galapagos Islands.

Sunday Morning October 5th

Rob Dillon	The Fresh Water Mussels of the Tennessee River System
Bill Old	The American Conidae
Rob Dillon	An orientation in Paleontology, with special emphasis on the Rice's Pit Area.

Monday Morning October 6th

Dorothy Germer	Pectinidae
Mary Palmer	Fossils of the Caloosahatchee Formations of Florida
Tom Rice & Kirk Anders	Shelling on the Great Barrier Reef of Australia
Russel Jensen & Jerry Haraseywitch	Shelling in West Mexico

Monday Evening October 6th

Henry Close, Moderator

A Symposium on Shell Photography

Tuesday Morning October 7th

Kirk Anders	A Trip on a Commercial Scallop Boat
Kirk Anders	Past COA Conventions.

Note: in volume 1, there are two different issues of “number 7" (7 & 7A), one issue of “number 8" and no “number 9"; fide American Conchologist (June 1989) 17(2):11

The Conchologists of America Bulletin

Secretary/ Treasurer
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Speaking out

Frank J. Nelson

Another issue to put-to-bed, and I've tryed this time to cut down the number of pages to a more manageable size. Putting together issues of eighteen and twenty pages gets downright overwhelming! Please do your bit by setting down some of your own thoughts and observations and sending them to me. I can not do it all!

The big news in this issue is the material on our Annual Convention, I've included a send-back page so that you can advise Mr. & Mrs. Stevens, the Conventdon Chairpersons, of your plans. Please give them as much advance notice as you can, they've got quite a lot to organize and need all of your cooperation in getting all of the arrangements finalized. The amount of work that they've put into this program is enormous and deserves to have all of the recognition that they can get!! I'm sure it will be a spectacular meeting plan to attend.

Another first: photographic illustrations! these were made by recopying color prints in a Xerogrzphic process and look real good.

During the reviewing of several books for the last few issues I've noticed that I have had to touch on Evolution on several occasions. Some readers might feel that this is a subject not appropriate to this journal, and that it is rather the special province of the Theologians. I disagree with this kind of head-in-the-sand point of view and must insist that no subject touching upon modern Biology is inappropriate, and feeling as I doI shall continue to deal with Evolution and Genetics etc. as with any 'fait accompli" and resist the temptation ti missionary zeal. It is not my intent to give anyone offence respecting their beliefs, nor shall I.

Cypraea cruickshanki Kilburn, 1972 and notes on Endemic Species of Cypraea from South Africa.

Of all the endemic groups of Cypraea, those from the Hawaiian Islands, Australia, and South Africa have consistantly been the most interesting to scientists and collectors alike. Of these three groups, we know least about the South African Cowries, because of the depth of their habitat and the fact that they are seldom found alive.

The endemic South African Cypraea are generally considered to include three very rare species, C. fultoni Sowerby, 1903; C. broderipii Sowerby, 1832; and C. barclayi Reeve, 1857. Since there are accurate records of specimens of C. broderipii and barclayi being taken from Mauritius and Diego Garcia Island they are not technically to be considered endemic to South Africa, even though most of the known specimens have been taken from the stomachs of fish caught in deep waters off Natal.

The cowries undisputably endemic to South Africa are:

Cypraea algoensis Gray, 1825
Cypraea amphithales Melvill, 1888
Cypraea capensis Gray, 1828
Cypraea cohenae Burgess, 1965
Cypraea edentula Gray, 1825
Cypraea fuscodentata Gray, 1825
Cypraea fuscorubra Shaw, 1909

I have not included Cypraea gondwanalandensis Burgess, 1970, in this list. Burgess named this species in the erroneous belief that Shaw intended C. fuscorubra to include only C. castanea Higgins, 1868, and not C. similis Gray, 1831, in a revision of those two former species into a single species. Allen, Barnard, and Abbott all consider both C. castanea and C. similis to be included in Shaw's revision into C. fuscorubra.

Many systematists consider C. gondwanalandensis an objective junior synonym of C. fuscorubra and the holotype of C. gondwanalandensis to be merely a globose form of C. fuscorubra, well within the limits of normal population variation.

The continental shelf of South Africa is less a shelf than an abrupt drop-off. In many areas the 100-fathom line occurs within a mile of the coast and near Cape St. Lucia the 100-fathom line virtually coincides with the coastline. In the areafrom Durban south to Port Elizabeth the 1,000-fathom line is within 100 miles of the coast, and in a few areas the 2,000-fathom line is within that limit. South of Port Elizabeth and around to the Cape of Good Hope the continental shelf is more typical of most other large land masses. This area includes that treasure house of beach shells, Jeffreys Bay.

Thus the endemic South African cowries are predominently deep-water dwellers. According to reliable, though scarce, locality data, only C. capensis, edentula, and fuscorubra are consistently found in water of less than 100 fathoms. Beach specimens of these three species are consistently found after a storm, commonly, but live-taken specimens of any of the endemic South African Cypraea are real prizes.

Probably the single most profound influence on their deep-water habitat is the Equatorial Current. Very strong and very warm, this current moves in a westerly direction just north of Madagascar and the Comoro Islands. It strikes the African Coast near Cape Delgado at the northeast tip of Mozambique. Here it divides, a south flowing branch, usually known as the Mozambique or Agulhas Current, flowing down the east and south coasts of South Africa almost to Cape town before it meets the cold currents of the Atlantic. Thus the deep-water cowries of South Africa have a warmer habitat than might be expected at the depths at which they live.

Relatively little deep-water exploration has been carried on off the Natal coast so that new fauna found in these waters should be no surprise. It was from this same area that the first living Coelacanth (Latimeria chalumnae Smith , 1940) was taken in 1939. It had been thought to have been extinct for some 50 million years.

In 1971 a trawler operating out of Durban brought another surprise to light when it netted three specimens of a new and very distinctive Cypraea. The specimens were obtained by Robert Cruickshank of Durban and he made them available for study by R. N. Kilburn, malacologist at the Natal Museum at Pietermaritzburg. Kilburn named the new cowly for Cruickshank and published his findings in the June 1972 issue of Novitates, the publication of the Natal Museum.

Kilburn noted that the new cowry had a marked resemblance to the Family Triviidae of Lamarck 1810, commonly known as the trivia. However, it was Kilburn's good fortune that one of the specimens still contained soft parts which, while badly decomposed, still permitted a study of the radula. This was sufficient to place the species in the Family Cypraea, primarilly because the marginal teeth of the radula were complex rather than simple as in the Triviidae. Kilburn noted that there is a close similarity between the radula of the new species and that of C. capensis.

There seems little need to repeat all of Kilburn's description except to emphasize the markedly globose, thin, and translucent characteristics of the specimen I had a chance to study over a period of some weeks. It was taken, ex-pices, from the same area and depth as the holotype and the two lectotypes, and it appeared to have suffered little from ingestion by a fish. Based on Kilburn's description of the specimen the illustrations with this paper can be considered typical of the species.

At the time of writing there are at least 20 specimens known. All of those on which I have data are between 25 and 35 mm in length. The dimensions of the holotype and the two lectotypes are:

	Length	Width	Height
Holotype	28.8 mm	24.5 mm	20.4 mm
Lectotype I	33.0 mm	28.2 mm	23.4 mm
Lectotype II	31.7 mm	26.3 mm	22.5 mm

There is a mystery, now at least 10 years old, relative to an as-yet unidentified deep-water South African Cowry.. In 1963 three specimens of an unknown Cypraea were dredged off Cape Point. All were moreor less broken and only one was adult. K.H. Barnard examined them and pronounced them as a globose form of C. fuscorubra, an identification he made, he said, 'with considerable doubt".

Kilburn notes that C. cruickshanki appears to be a closer relative of this unknown species than is C. fuscorubra. But, he says, regarding this 'mystery' cowry, " no final decision can be made regarding it's status until such time as more material is available. Even the exact locality from which the Cape Point shells were obtained is in doubt as to the cited locality .... would put their place of origin in False Bay where depths do not exceed 102 meters." The Cape Point shells were supposedly dredged in 180 fathoms.

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Cypraea cruickshanki Kilburn

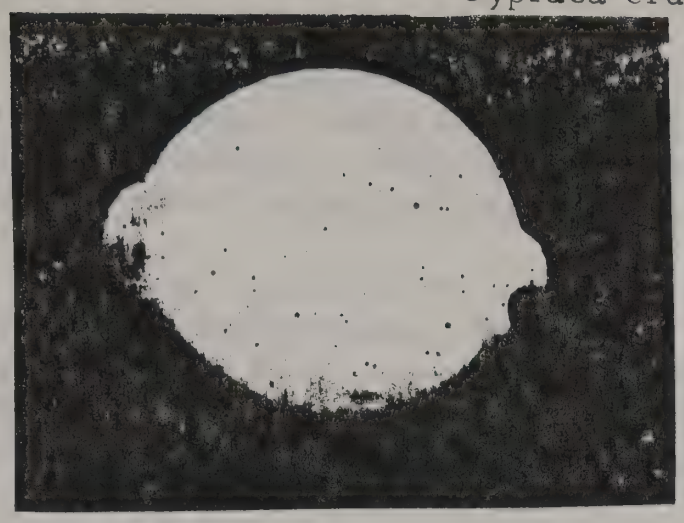


Plate I
Dorsum
Ca 2X

Plate II
Ventrum
Ca 2X

ESCARGOT OR ESSENTIAL PROTEIN?

Jarmo is a Neolithic townsite on a high bluff in the Kurdish foothills of northeastern Iraq. A wide scattered pattern of radiocarbon dating indicates a fairly constant occupation from about 7000BC to perhaps 6750BC. During the period in which Jarmo fluorished the area seems to have had the climate and vegitation characteristic of a modern Mediterranean woodland environment with warm dry summers and cool rainy winters. During the settlement period the villiage was situated about 36m above the bed of an intermittant stream, which was probably the major water supply. Based upon the number of house remains Jarmo had a probable population of between 125 and 200 people, which is in good agreement with the size of settlements in the area today.

Jarmo remains show a variety of flint instruments, which include many sickle-blades etc., made from a glassy volcanic rock obsidian. The obsidian was quarried in the Lake Van area some 500 Km to the north of Jarmo which would indicate , seemingly, a trading elemrnt in the economy, pottery does not appear in the lowest two thirds of the settlement strata.

The biological materials which have been identified at Jarmo indicate that grains were domesticated during the entire period, and that the skeletal remains of the domestic goat covered the entire period and domestic pigs occur in the upper strata only. A significant gathering and hunting component of the economy is indicated by remains of red fox, wolf, gazelle, wild cattle, red and roe deer, wild sheep, boar and onager. Great masses of land snails (Helix salomonica) are present together with some freshwater crabs and fish.

The dentition of seven skeletons found in the area show signs of only moderate wear, which points to a less coarse diet than has been inferred from similar earlier populations. From this it would seem that the diet probably consisted of better prepared vegetable foods with a probable larger proportion of meat.

The villiage of Jarmo seemingly represents the prototypical economic unit of small settlements at this period, the end of the stone age. Hoe agriculture may be inferred by the abscence of remains of either plow or of plow animals, which was combined with the gathering and hunting of wild plant and animal foods, substantiated by finds of acorns, pistachio nuts and snails, to supplement the diet.

Frank Nelson

Butzer, Karl W. 1964 Environment and Archaeology, Aldane Publishing Co. Chicago, Ill.

Converting the system of measurements used in the United States from the presently used English System to the Metric System has been given a considerable push forward by the passage of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. Virtually all of the other industrialized nations of the World now use the International System of Units (abbreviated S.I. , from the French). A recommendation was made some years ago that a coordinated program, on a national level, be started which would complete the conversion in ten years, the new bill which was passed does not have a time limit (after all ten years is too short a time in which to expect Congress to boil a three minute egg).

That leads us into Mike Werner's latest offering arguing against the 2.54 centimeter worm of progress catching up to us all.

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION, A BUNDLE, AND CONSIDERABLE RHETORIC EFFORT IN RECOUNTING THE DATA
or, What Seemed Like 20,000 Leagues (110,000 kilometers) Under the "Sea Frontiers" Spell

Faster, and faster the metric system is infringing on our sanity, now with congressional sanction. We can look forward to quantifying our transactions and diversions in lengths, weights, and volumes that are always too big or too small to deal sensibly with the business at hand. On top of that, we'll be expected to strip our language of an array of smooth, tasty, bite-sized words like foot and mile, pint and gallon, ounce and pound. In their place, we'll be asked to take to our bosoms an inventory of such clanking, bolted-together hardware as "kilometer" and "deca-liter". Just let one of those erector-set contraptions get jammed sideways in your mouth, and you'll be lucky to get it unwedged and on its way without damage to your teeth and gums.

But if this mensural and lexical onset catches us unprepared, it would not be the fault of Sea Frontiers, the worthy periodical of the International Oceanographic Foundation. (All of this is indispensable to the unusual nature of my vacation story, as you'll see.) When SF employs any of the units that are headed for the history books, it converts the measurements into metric, on the spot. For over a year, it was so breathlessly eager in missionary zeal as to use the method exemplified in the excerptthat follows. Describing a real-life sea rescue it says, "the airmen spotted a drifting liferaft about 1 1/2 miles (2.4 kilometers) from the lifeboat." Say what you will about the metric system, this passage demonstrates clearly how a simple tutorial touch was cleverly employed for double service. Its second job, obviously, was to fan those narrational embers into flames. And even in subjects that lacked the coals of drama, SF's parenthetic torches found, among the weights and measures, tinder for rhetorical fires.

This unlikely magic was applied assiduously - not to say relentlessly - to liven up every sort of subject from teredos to tornados. But alas - perhaps the apostolic ardor has cooled, or the resident stylist has become obsessed with some such fetish as rhetoric grace or readability. The conversions are now relegated to footnote status, a work-a-day expedient that has robbed SF's pages of their recent editorial iridescence.

Nevertheless, I was still under the spell of the abandoned literary device when I sat down to put my summer adventures on paper — only to learn that simply using it doesn't assure higher-voltage prose. SF had quietly been practicing a scrivener's sorcery so subtile as to escape my notice. Here is how my eager, unguided attempt came out :

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

From the time the shell bug first bit me, I planned and saved for a collector's-dream vacation. Recently, the regimen of scrimping and yearning was cut short by the timely passing of an uncle who had loaded his portfolio with Amalgamated Lobster in 1947. Now, with the need for frugality lifted, is it any wonder that I made straight for the fabled rock-bound coast of Maine?

Even before unpacking I was balanced on a high perch, thrilling tothe marine vista and throbbing to the pound (.454 kilogram) of sea on stone (6.35 kilograms). The thought of 14 hectic days (10.4 metric days) of furious, glorious shelling here, relieved of all the frustration of being stuck in Kansas, and collecting via catalogs and swap lists.

Throughout this intoxicating excursion, the sea was, so to speak, my front yard (94.4 centimeters). I had the good fortune to be able to rent an abandoned lighthouse. Its consrtuction - for example, the thickness of its footings (.305 metering and the three quartz (2.84 liters) windows in the tower - attested to the might of the sea when stirred to fury.

Among the fascinations that glow my memory is the story of the last keeper of this light. I learned it on one of my frequent shopping trips to Squishibogg, a fishing village of 263 year-round people (337 metric people) only a few miles (several kilometers) away. While these natives are typically taciturn, I learned this, and much morelocal lore, from a catch-boat captain. He never failed to chat freely with me while his son weighed the lobsters that I feasted on almost daily.

It had been the light-tender's dream, Captain Caleb told me, to have his son succeed him. But he over-indulged the lad, who soon became a Peck's (8.81 liter's) Bad Boy, and worsened to such a degree (.556° C.) that older villagers still refer to him as "that half-pint (.237 liter) wise-acre (.405 hectare)." Came the day when the keeper saw his son flounce (.0296 fl. liter) out of the lighthouse and run away to sea. He became the proverbial wastrel, with a gal in (3.79 liters) in every port. His father had to foot (.305 meter) the bills for his roistering. Finally, broken in mental as well as physical health, the prodigal son drifted into bird-watching.

Learning this, the heartbroken father threw himself from the top of his beloved tower into the churning sea. The tragedy ended on aanote of irony when the scapegrace son, pursuing his new pastime, saw the plunging figure with bleared.eye. He entered it in his birding log, with fuddled gratification, as a Curtiss Helldiver. The Farmer's Almanac was right: "Spare the rod (5.03 meters) and spoil the child ."

Concerning the ecstasies of my first live-collecting experiences, I would find it hard to pick my favorite from the two basic types :
1) Clutch and go: Being bashed off of slippery boulders by the heavier of the icy waves
2) Inch (2.54 Centimeters) and Flinch (2.54 fl. centimeters) : Cheating the waves by bellying along on barnacled rocks, pressing down firmly when bashed. Both of these thrills beat a barn-raising by a mile (1.6 kilometers). And nobody ever collected a suitcase full of Nucella lapillus and Littorina littoria in a wheat field. Let's hear from all you swappers! The address is R.F.D. Bushelville (35.24 literville).

The one little cloud was that I eventually had to wire my brother for money. (I later told him I think I'll keep him wired for money permanently. Ha Ha.) If you don't have someone you can hit for a quick hand-out (10.2 centimeters out) take my advice and go easy on the lobster. Golly Ned - no wonder Uncle Sigismund was acquainted with all those financiers, legislators and percision dancers.

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Well, you don't need me to tell you that I failed , somehow , to get any real dramatic milage (oops), any added drive or color, out of those parenthetic embellishments. The fascination and excitement are conveyed by the writing style alone. But can you detect the subtile difference between SF's handling and mine? I never did fathom (to h--k with it) their secret. And my failure has put me right back where I started, regarding the metric system - convinced all over again that we should greet its approach with sullen ignorence.

Metric measurement, my foot (12 inches).

P.S. You can bet your collecting bucket I wouldn't even cross the street to meet a metric precision dancer.

Going Shell Collecting?

Listen to the experts! Read about the how's, why's and when's of over 50 shell expeditions and collecting trips undertaken by such famous malacologists as W. J. Clench, Charles T. Simpson, F. C. Baker, Charles Hedley of Australia, and James Ferriss. In the Bicentennial anthology, The Best of the Nautilus, the methods and results of shell exploring are revealed in detail for such areas as Cuba, Hawaii, the Azores, Japan, Panama, and 20 of the U.S. States. In reading this book you will relive your own experiences and prepare yourself for your next shell-collecting vacation. Exerpted from America's oldest journal on shells, this fascinating collection of articlec is edited by R. Tucker Abbott, well-known author of many books on shells.

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA
1976 CONVENTION
JUNE 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

PLACE: Portland, Oregon at Thunderbird Jantzen Beach Motor Inn.

FACILITIES: Thunderbird Jantzen Beach Motor Inn provides some of the finest convention facilities in the Pacific Northwest. Situated on the bank of, and commanding a magnificent view of, the mighty Columbia River.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: A block of rooms have been set aside for COA members. We are hopeful that we can all be on one floor in one wing. Choice of waterfront rooms overlooking the Columbia or Garden Court. Send your hotel reservations directly to Thunderbird Jantzen Beach Motor Inn, 1401 North Hayden Island Drive, Portland, Oregon 97217, telephone (503)-283-2111. (Reservations cards available. Or if you write or telephone designate that you are with COA group.) Note: Summer rates will be $1.00 higher than shown on reservation cards.

Note: For the ladies. The Thunderbird is actually a part of an ultramodern shopping mall containing over 70 fine shops.

AIRPORT ARRIVALS: Thunderbird provides - on call - Courtesy transportation service to and from the airport. Direct line telephone is located adjacent to baggage claim area at Portland International Airport.

CARS, CAMPERS, & TRAILERS: Follow I-5 to turn-off to Jantzen Beach Shopping Center. Turn-offs located two blocks south of south end of Interstate Bridge ramp crossing of Columbia River from Oregon into Washington.

CAMPER & TRAILER FACILITIES: Five (5) spaces for COA members have been reserved at the Jantzen Beach Trailer Park. These spaces will be available on a first reservation basis. For camper reservations at this facility write to Henry Afrank, 1503 North Hayden Drive, Space 39, Portland, Oregon 97217. Telephone (503) 289-7626. Price $5.00 plus tax per night (for 2 people).

Space may also be reserved at Portland Mobile Home Court, 9000 N.E. Union, Portland, Oregon 97211. Telephone (503) 285-1617. (Located about 1 ½ miles from Thunderbird). Price $4.75 minimum.

BOAT ARRIVALS: Moorage facilities in front of Thunderbird or accommodations can be arranged at Hayden Island Yacht Club quest dock.

HITCHHIKERS: On your own!

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM

Wednesday afternoon - June 16th:

Early bird registration facilities will be in hospitality room. Notice of room number will be in lobby. This will provide early arrivals registration, meet new friends, get reacquainted with old friends, swap yarns, shells or what have you.

Oregon Society of Conchologists members will attempt, on request, to show visitors around Portland area.

Thursday - June 17th:

8:30 a.m. - Registration

An optional walking tour of downtown Portland at $2.50 per person. Reservations must be made in advance as transportation will depart Thunderbird 8:30 a.m. for start of downtown tour at 9:00 a.m. You will be back in time for lunch.

11:45 a.m. - Get acquainted lunch program.

Address of Welcome by President Bill Bledsoe
Address of Welcome by Convention Chairman, R. Wayne Stevens
Introduction to Great Pacific Northwest. A summary of where you are and what you can expect to see on your visit - by: Clare Stahl, Former President of Oregon Society of Conchologists and Past President of Geological Society of the Oregon Country.

1:15 p.m. - Opening of session by Tom Rice, Program Chairman.

2:30 p.m. - Coffee break.

5:00 p.m. - Adjournment

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - No host cocktail party

Evening free.

Friday - June 18th:

9:00 a.m. - Early bird drawing for door prizes - followed by program.

10:30 a.m. - Coffee break

No host luncheon

1:00 p.m. - Program

2:30 p.m. - Coffee break

5:00 p.m. - Adjournment

Friday evening:

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - No host cocktail hour.

7:30 p.m. - Banquet and shell auction.

Saturday - June 19th:

9:00 a.m. - Business meeting - election of officers.

Adjournment open.

1:00 p.m. - Here we have an optional <u>depending upon pre-registration</u>.

Option A:

Boat trip departing 1:00 p.m. from Thunderbird dock on the luxurious 52 ft. "Yachts of Fun" heading up the world renowned Columbia River Gorge to Beacon Rock and return (approximate 5 hr. trip). This trip will require a registration of 49 people at $15.00 per person. Cocktail facilities aboard. If insufficient registration received we will follow:

Option B:

Scenic Columbia Gorge Tour. The famed Marian shrine of the Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother is the first stop on your itinerary. Now, touring eastward via the old Scenic Highway to Crown Point where you enjoy a 35-mile long view of the mighty Columbia River and the steep rising cliffs of the Gorge carved out of the Cascades by the swift flowing water. Continue on past Latourell and Wahkeeah Falls to view and photograph the magnificent 620 foot high spectacle of Multnomah Falls, the second highest falls in the country. At Bonneville Dam, you will see the fish hatchery and power plant, try to spot the salmon as they fight their way upstream over the winding fish ladder and see the unique fish counting station. Return to Portland via the scenic water level route. Without a lunch stop this tour takes approximately 4 hours. The cost per person is $8.00, children 12 and under $4.00 each, with a minimum of 20.

Sunday - June 20th:

Departing from the Jantzen Beach Thunderbird on the morning of June 20, the group will first enjoy a visit to the world-renowned International Rose Test Gardens on its hillside perch overlooking downtown Portland.

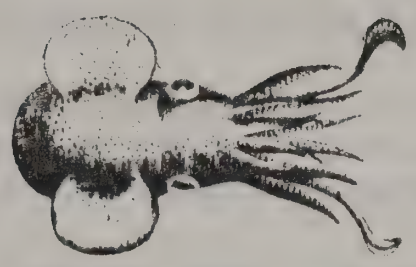
Your motorcoach will then proceed through the fertile farm lands and across the Coastal Range to Tillamook. In Rockaway you will stop for a coffee break at the Steven's summer home on the ocean.

From Rockaway you will drive north along Oregon's Pacific coastline with its miles of sandy beaches, rugged headlands and forested mountains whose slopes descent to the water's edge, and over Neahkahnie Mountain, one of the most beautiful viewpoints on the coast. After a lunch stop you will drive through Seaside and visit the official terminating point of the Lewis and Clark Trail. You will then arrive in the port of Astoria. In Astoria you will visit Astor Column, high atop Coxcomb Hill from where you'll enjoy a panoramic vista of the Columbia River Estuary. Your return trip to Portland will be along the Columbia River on Route 30. All too soon you arrive back in Portland for the conclusion of your Scenic Oregon Coast Tour. The cost per person is $15.00, children under 12 $7.50, with a minimum of 20. (Lunch is not included.)

If time and tide is right we will have a shell collecting stop on the Nehalem breakwater following our coffee break.

Please send your plans for attendance and participation at earliest possible date to R. Wayne Stevens, P.O. Box 2712, Portland, Oregon 97208.

THE BEST OF THE NAUTILUS



A Bicentennial Anthology of American Conchology

Edited by R. Tucker Abbott

From the first 40 years of *The Nautilus* 100 of the most interesting and significant articles are reproduced with modern day perspectives by the editor. The 288-page book is replete with conchological lore, quaint ads, and charming accounts of shell collecting in pioneer America. Come down the Mississippi in a boat on a unio hunting trip with F. C. Baker in 1902; venture with Charles Hedley on his first helmet dive on an Australian reef in 1894; go "logging" with C. T. Simpson in 1921; join James Ferriss and George Clapp in 1899 at Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains; and laugh with Abe Loche, a policeman of Atlantic City, who was felled by a clam dropped on his head by a seagull in 1925.

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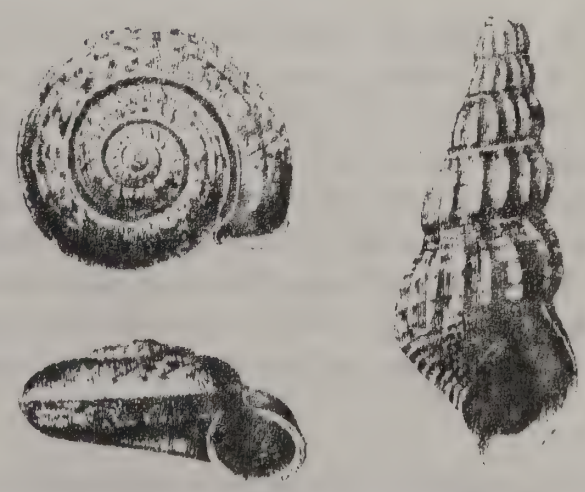

The Bookfinder

The Life Giving Sea by David Bellamy, Crown Publishers, Inc., New York $ 15.95

Sometimes one picks up a book that is such a delight to the eye that it requires a conscious effort of will to read the text, and when the text is done as well as the "coup d'oeil" of the illustrations, then ---- you've got a real gem!

A book that looks this good is all too often the sort to become a coffee table decoration, and after the first few times of amusing oneself with the pictures it becomes just a decorative piece. Not so The Life Giving Sea, to which David Bellamy brings the best of credentials and a delightful, clear and brief yet witty writing style together with material about which he is enthusiastic. Each chapter covers a single topicwithin the whole discipline of Oceanography, but none of the chapters loses sight of the whole interrelated ecosystem which encompases the salt-water balnket covering most of the Earth's surface.

Starting with that time, estimated as three billion years ago, when circumstances were right and life first began in that primordal chemical soup which were the oceans of that time. Till today, the waters of the sea have contained the greatest diversity of life on earth. The narrative takes one through the evolution of life on earth from it's most primitive to the most highly evolved life forms to be found in the modern seas. Much of the book treats various phyla of animals with respect to the life styles of selected members, relating the over-all development of that phylum to the general pattern of evolution of higher species and of complex eco-systems.

The last section of the book is called "Potential to Man" in which Mr. Bellamy discusses the human food resource which the sea provides and speaks of the depredations worked on the sea by man's careless misuse of the seas. The evolutionary and adaptive potential of most of the sea's life forms is so great that even England's North Sea coastal waters, a reservoir for Industrial and Human Sanitary Waste for the entire period since the start of the Industrial Revolution, still produces a disproportionately high portion of the food fish catch of the world; and has not been depleted of the large diversity of species present. The real danger to the sea comes from the uncontrolled overfishing of food fish species and other economically valuable sea life, to the point at which the entire eco-system is upset.

If you want to understand all of the complex interrelations of various creatures of the sea in the light of today's biological concepts, Read This Book!! The most direct comment that I can offer is that it's like holding a well made Television Special on your lap.

Just so that I can continue to feel that I've been properly critical, the only complaint that I must make is that the illustration at the top of page 156 is reversed with respect to the captions.

Nemouria No. 16 Occasional Papers of the Delaware Museum of Natural History

A Bibibliography of William Harper Pease, Malacologist of Polynesia.
by E. Allison Kay and William J. Clench Dec. 30th 1975

Part I. A Biography of William Harper Pease. E. Allison Kay

Pease is an all too little known figure of those mid-ninteenth century conchologists, who made a very significant contribution to our knowledge of the Pacific mollusca. Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1824 he arrived in Hawaii in late 1849 and lived there as a citizen of the Kingdom of Hawaii till his early death in 1871. Most of the available biographical material on Pease is of necessity derived from his correspondence, much of which is deposited in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The Pease Collection which represents much of his work during his residence in Hawaii is deposited at the Museum of Comparitive Zoology at Harvard University.

Part II. Catalogue of Species and Bibliography of William Harper Pease.
by William J. Clench

A listing of the many names introduced by Pease in the Phylum Mollusca, together with a list of his publications from 1848 thru 1872 and several publications relating to the species etc. he introduced. Some 500 species are attributed to him, which cover land and marine mollusca from the entire Pacific Ocean Basin. Many of his species were self-collected though a very large number were obtained from his long-time friend Andrew Garrett whose trips were in part sponsored by Pease.

Cowries by Dr. John Taylor and Jerry G. Walls, TFH Publications, Inc.
211 West Sylvania Ave., Neptune City, New Jersey 07753

This book is a new venture for a publishing company which has, till now, specialized in books about Tropical Fish and other Pet Animals; I hope it is a harbinger of more good things to come.

Dr. Taylor's contribution to the book is called "The Living Cowry" and deals with the living animal and with the history of the Family Cypridae. This section is illustrated with many fine color photographs of living cowries with the mantles etc. clearly shown. For the beginning collector and for the more advanced as well there is much to learn from this highly concentrated discussion.

Mr. Walls deals with the collector's interests: in a section of photographs of all of the species of Cypraea which he recognises. (That's not a knock on Mr. Walls since every three cowry collectors can easilly produce eight lists of valid Cypraea species, to which he subscribes.) On every page there's a dorsal and a ventral view of each cowry with a short description of each. The photographs are, on the whole, quite good (Though I for one do not like the flattened underwater look) the color reproduction though, is some what inconsistant. I am bewhildered by the organization of the illustrations, there seems to be none, not taxonomic, alphabetical, geographical or any other pattern is apparent. That's not to say that this renders the whole work useless, but, it does hamper one's efforts to make the most efficient use of it.

Included with the book is an Identi-Chart which is printed ona special paper for field use; the photographs are grouped on this chart by similarity of shape or oof color pattern. I htink that the concept of a field identification chart is a good one, but, it would seem that the whole idea of that should be to put the species most reasonably associated in one area together; not to put such combinations as a South African, a Persian Gulf and a Caribbean species cheek-by-jowl with each other. Fortuitously the first five photos in column one and the first three in column two are all South Africar species. The chart is of more value , in my opinion, at one's desk than in one's collecting bucket.

Notwithstanding the criticisms I have made I find this is a good book and even a useful one which could have been much improved by organization of the material, it fills the needs of the non-specialized collector of cowries without overloading one's library budget.

7A

The Conchologists of America Bulletin

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Kathleen Daniels
121 Stephens Lane
Verona, Pa. 15147

Editor
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95-24 110th Street
Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11419

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Speaking out

Frank J. Nelson

I had intended to write a long editorial, perhaps decrying the amount of work that's involved in the production of the Bulletin. I might have patted myself on the back for the inclusion of more of my own art work, maps and drawings. Or even on how important I consider things like the Field Note Book concept which is featured in this issue.

BUT!! --- This is my editorial for this issue:

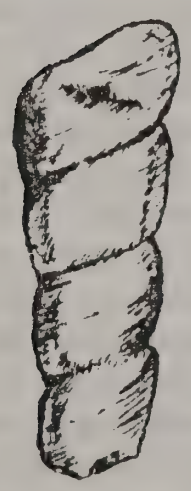
In issue #6 we included a Bye Law/ Constitution Vote issue form to be submitted to the Secretary so that all of the membership might participate in the democratic processes by which it was felt that we should operate, having a voice in the rules of COA. I had a letter from Kathe Daniels just after the convention ended: she had received exactly ONE ballot in the mail, Lee's and mine!!! Enough said.

SHADES OF PUKA, etc.

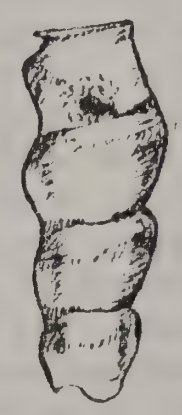
In a Paleolithic site at Sagvarjile, Georgian SSR dug by N.Z. Kiladze in 1952 approximately twenty perforated fossil marine shells (Turritella duplicata Zinne) were found in a closed circles suggesting that they had been threaded as a necklace. These were found associated with stone and bone tools.

The shells were shown by laboratory examination to have been perforated by two different methods; by scraping through and by sawing through. The scraping method was done by pressing hard at the point to be perforated with a flint instrument (called a Burin) each successive application of pressure left a small cut 1 - 3 mm long by 0.33 - 0.50 mm deep which was repeated till a hole of the required size was made. The sawing method, which will only work when using either hollow cylinders or cones((such as a shell), makes a groove by the friction of a rough edged flint chip tool and the hole is subsequently enlarged by cutting a second groove parallel to the first.

Semenov, S.A. Prehistoric Technology. 1957: English Translation by Cory, Adams and Mackay Ltd., London 1964



Perforated by Sawing Method



Perforated by Scraping Method

BOOK COLLECTORS LISTED FREE:

In the forthcoming International Directory of Book Collectors. Just send a note listing your name and address together with a description of your collecting interests to : TRIGON PRESS (Ref BE) , 117 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1JJ , England, there is no charge for the listing.

Since the Bulletin has as one of it's main goals the exchange of material relative to collecting shells by the members of COA this issue is featuring a series of pages from a field notebook kept by a friend of mine who moved to Austraila

Since the Bulletin has as one of it's main goals the exchange of material relative to collecting shells by the members of COA; this issue is featuring a series of pages from the field notebook kept by a friend of mine who moved with his family, to Australia in 1971. Horst and I had worked together here in the States for several years, and when he left here we had agreed to continue to exchange shells and shelling information.

After he had been there for several months Horst made Xerox copies of his field book, these were of the few pages which represented the preliminary surveys that were made during his first few months there. What Horst has done with this note book system is to take the first step in doing the one thing that the amateur in any field can do as well as the professional can, and that is to observe accurately and with care. Any collector who goes out into the field to collect his own specimens owes it to himself to do the kind of hard, detailed work that will lift his efforts above the level of accumulating material. When visiting a new area, make this a rule: observe the whole area, see which kinds of terrain or of shore condition are most productive of the kinds of specimens you are looking for based on previous success you might have had (you'll be unlikely to find bivalves in the desert areas or nudibranchs in fresh water, etc.), if you are not looking for one single family or even a single species, make note of the type of ground, food supply, and shelter etc., associated with each species that you either collect or observe. If this area is to be visited again continued note keeping will make it possible to follow the life history of which ever species inhabit that particular locality You'll be able to learn enough about your local species to be able to utilize that information to locate species with equivalent ecological nitches in other areas to which you might subsequently be travelling. You might have made an observation about feeding habits either to look for similar habitats or even use baiting methods as a result of your new-found expertise. John Phillips§ has noted that he has been successful in collecting Nassarius mendicus (Gould, 1849) by using "a slightly over-aged "fish carcass on the bottom then waiting for the critters to crawl over to have a meal and collecting the specimens he wants This method will work with all of the Nassariidae since they're all scavengers. Anotl friend once told me about his Olive catching system, he has a special trap made from an open topped bamboo basket with a turned in top; this is baited with some rather high fish and sunk over a sandy bottom in the evening and raised the next day; usually with more than enough specimens to satisfy his needs any time.

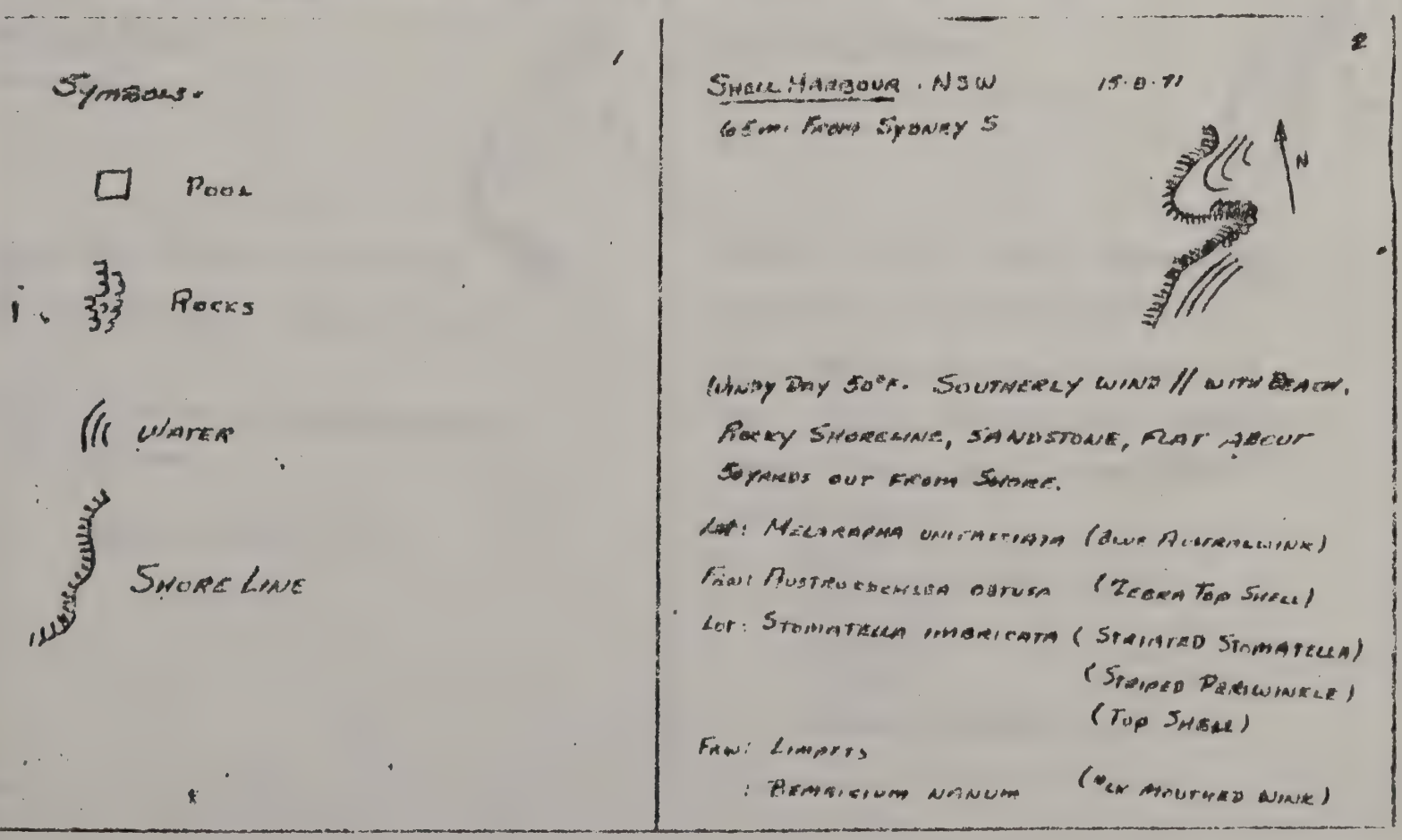
Now that many people are turning to marine aquaria to be able to keep and to observe the living animals which produce the shells that we collect, the field notebook, with its observations, will be a big help in keeping and rearing specimens perhaps through several generations. You'll have seen the feeding behavior and the food preferences of the species which you're attempting to keep alive and thriving-

and will not have lost them to improper diet or conditions of life. In general any animal well kept in captivity will frequently breed, just imagine the delight you'll have at becoming the foster parent of a family of mollusks. George and Dorothy Raelhle of The New York Shell Club have been raising Florida marine molluscs through many generations here on Long Island and have made many valuable observations on the life habits and breeding periods of many mollusks which could not be studied any other way than in a home tank. George has even hand trained a Strombus alatus Gmelin 1791 to take algae collected in New York, when offered from his hand.

The field book will also be an invaluable aid when preparing labels for your collection - all pertainent information on collecting localities should be listed in the field book and on the label. In the case of certain land or tree snails distances as small as one half mile can have great importance, in places for which good maps are not readilly available use the distance from some well recognised landmark and the direction in which that distance is measured, this will pin-point the collecting site.

"Whenever possible, the label should be written in the field at the time the specimen is prepared. Any replacing of temporary labels by later permanent ones is a potential source of error. **** All essential data should be recorded on the original labels. Data recorded in a field book are frequently overlooked and may be unavailable if the collection is divided. The original label should never be replaced by a museum label. A certain number of mistakes are always made in the transfer. If a museum label is desired, it should be added to the original label."

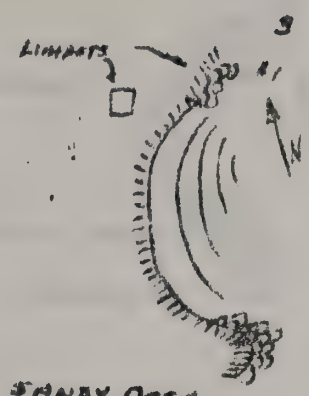
Mayr, Ernst, E. Gorton Linsley, and Robert L. Usinger. Methods and Principles of Systematic Zoology, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc. 1953 p 65.



3

PALM BEACH

23 mi NORTH OF SYDNEY



NARROW BEACH IN WIDTH OF SANDY AREA, ROUGH WINDS & CURRENTS. BEACH IS NEAR TIP OF BARRENJOEY PENINSULA.

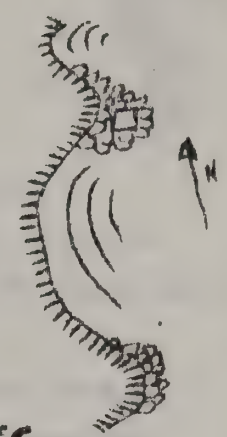
(NOT FULLY EXPLORED YET)
ONLY STOP #1

#1 - EXCELLENT VARIETY OF LIMPETS
" BEMBICIUM NANUM
" BLACK NERITES

4

MENA VALE BEACH

10 mi NORTH OF SYDNEY



GOOD SPECIMENS IN POOL AREA, NORTH SIDE, BUT FEW IN NUMBER.

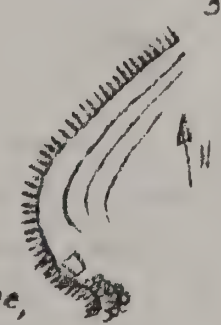
STRONG CURRENT & TIDAL EFFECTS ON SPECIMENS.

GOOD NUMBER OF TURBANS
FEW CHITONS
" LIMPETS
" TOP SHELLS.

5

CRONULLA BEACH

18 mi SOUTH OF SYDNEY



LONG, FLAT, ROCKY ON SOUTH SIDE, HI INCLINE FROM WATER TO SAND.

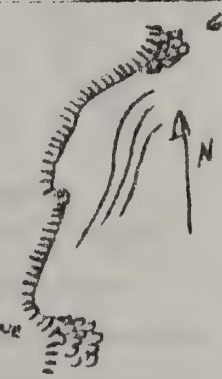
SPECIMENS FOUND COMMONLY ON HI-TIDE LINE

BANKIVIA FASCIATA

6

NEWPORT BEACH

19 mi NORTH OF SYDNEY



SHALLOW INCLINE OF SANDY SHORELINE

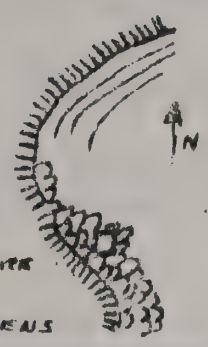
NO SPECIMENS IN THIS AREA (EXCEPT SOME BROKEN JANTHINAS), BUT A GOOD VARIETY OF SPECIMENS BOTH NORTH & SOUTH ENDS OF THE BEACH ON THE ROCKS

ABALONES SOUTH SIDE
TOP SHELLS
LIMPETS
CHITONS
CART RUT (DICOTHAIS ORBITA)

7

Dee Why Beach

12 mi. From Sydney North



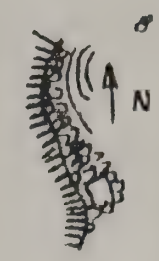
Long, flat beach, south, rocky shore w/pools. Good variety of specimens

Austrocochlea comcomerata (Speckled Top Shell)
" obtusa (Zebra Top Shell)
Bembicium nanum (Black Mouthed Wink)
Limpets
Sipharochiton septentriones (Snake Skin Chiton)

8

Shelley Beach

17 mi. South of Sydney



Very little sand rocky shoreline
Good variety of shells, well protected in pools, but rough surf. Immature shells washed up on beach.

Astelena scitula (Elegant Top) small
Herpetopoma aspersa (Pink Spotted Top)
Austrocochlea concamerata (Speckled Top)
" obtusa (Zebra Top)
Limpets
Dicothais orbita (Cart Rut)
Bembicium nanum (Black Mouthed Wink)

9

Freshwater Beach N.S.W.

9.5 mi. from Sydney North
(Harbord)

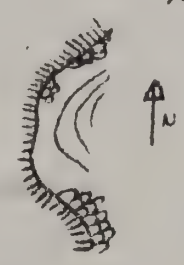
Deeply coved beach, very flat grade, South side has 100' high rock hill, good area because of rocky shoreline & pools.

Few : Dicothais orbita (Cart Rut Shell)
Few : Merula marginalba (Mulberry Shell)
: Sipharochiton septentriones (Snake Skin Chiton)
Lot : Nodilittorina pyramidalis (Knobby Wink)
: Limpets
: Bembicium nanum (Black Mouthed Wink)

10

Harcubra Beach N.S.W.

7 mi. from Sydney South



Excellent condition of limpets & nerites, lot of sand, long beach, south has large loose rocks, at tide line extending out about 50 yards, specimens well protected from rough seas due to rock formation.

Lot : Cellana laticostata (Giant Limpet)
Lot : Cellana tramoserica (Colorful Limpet)
Lot : Melanerita atramentosa (Black Nerite)

Collecting Field Notebook.

Redrawn from H. Bernhart

INDO-PACIFIC MOLLUSCA

Editor: *R. Tucker Abbott*

THE MITERS OF THE WORLD
by Walter O. Cernohorsky

Now being printed and to be mailed September 28, 1976, is this largest number of Indo-Pacific Mollusca: Part 1, the Mitrinae of the World. 256 pages, 218 plates, with 152 shells in beautiful color, including photographs of living Mitra. Sold at manufacturing cost. Only $20.48 (8 cents a page).

This is the definitive monograph series serving malacologists and private collecters alike. Babylonia and Rhinoclavis are scheduled for late 1977.

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Dr. R. Tucker Abbott is chairman of a committee to raise funds for the purchase of a 93mm gem specimen of Conus gloriamaris which will be donated to the shell collection of the Smithsonian Institution as a bicentennial gift from American shell collectors. Your tax deductible contributions will make this gift possible. Checks should be made payable to the Delaware Museum of Natural History and sent directly to Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, PO Box 3937, Greenville, Delaware 19807. Donations exceeding the purchase price of the C. gloriamaris will be given to the Smithsonian for the purchase of other shells for their collection.

During last year's COA Convention at Virginia Beach, Mary Palmer invited my husband and I to go fossilling with her on our next trip to Florida, an invitation that we were finally able to accept this May. We knew, of course, that the LaBelle pits had been closed to the public and that we'd be going to a different spot.

This spot turned out to be near Sarasota, which meant that we would have to leave Pompano Beach on Friday morning, drive to Sarasota for an afternoon of fossilling and return on Saturday, with a side trip to Venice Beach on Saturday to hunt for fossil shark teeth. The news that we first must equip ourselves with hard-hats was a bit unnerving. But to learn that we would be leaving at the uncivilized hour of 6AM came as a real shock! Me, get up at 5 AM, when we hadn't gone to bed till midnight the previous night? Never!!

Well, hardly ever. We did manage to slither out of bed and pour down enough black coffee to get at least one eye open, and we were waiting outside by 6 o' colck when Mary drove up, accompanied, to our pleasant surprise, by 'Big Mama" Phyllis Welling. The fact that we knew Phyllis from a trip to Haiti several years ago should have prepared us.

The drive to Sarasota was rather uneventful if one could discount the black clouds that were gathering overhead and an occasional sprinkle of light rain. But after arriving there, we first had to present ourselves at the company's main office, about five miles from the pits, and request permission to collect fossils on their property. Obtaining the mining rights to Ft. Knox might have been a little easier. We had to show them that we did indeed have hard-hats and sign releases absolving the company from any responsibility in the event of accident or injury.

Armed with photocopies of the release (to be presented at the gate to the pit) and with hard-hats jammed stylishly on our heads, we were off to the accompanyment of a light but steady rain. Oh well, what's a little rain? At least it wouldn't be unbearably hot.

After passing the last check point, where we presented the copy of the release and again prove that we were protected by hard-hats, we were at last admitted to the 'Inner Sanctum" and the pits stretched out endlessly before us. There, half buried in the dirt and peeping out at us from every direction, were millions of fossils! After a few minutes of trying to grab everything in sight, we settled down to being somewhat more selective.

Unfortunately, all that the rain had done so far was to increase the humidity and make it hot, steamy and slippery. While we were trying to dig out fossils, we constantly had to wipe perspiration and rain from our eyes, retrieve run-away collecting gear, hats and specimens, and try to maintain a safe footing in the loose, uneven soil that was slowly turning to mud. As we stumbled, slid, and fell up and down those steep mounds, we must have resembled a third rate tumbling and juggling team. Initially the rain was light and intermittent with an occasional heavy burst that sent us running for the car, but it finally got it's act together and became a steady deluge. However, we knew that the pits would not be poen on Saturday, and any collecting would have to be done that day or not at all. Anyway we were already soaked to the skin and couldn't possibly get any wetter no matter how hard it might rain. Then, any doubts that remained vanished when we chanced on several mounds of freshly dug earth, a fresh, untouched area where the shells were being exposed by the torrential rain!

By now it had become quite windy and chilly, and Phyllis was trying unsuccesfully to protect herself with an umbrella while I was running around in Mary's rubberized poncho looking like a tent about to take off in a gale. There was much good-natured kidding from the men who were still working in the pits as they watched us dashing madly finding our treasures, attempting to light soggy cigarettes with wet matches and sliding down the hills on our backsides with a handfull of muddy fossils cradled carefully against our bodies. No doubt they were simply humoring these fools who had obviously taken leave of their sanity.

Four o'clock came at last - closing time at the pits - and while we weren't actually thrown out, we were pointedly reminded that it was now time to leave. Now we faced a new problem. What half-way respectable motel would accept four such disreputable looking creatures? So we spent about a half hour sitting in the car trying to think of a believable story and arguing over which of us would be the least likely to cause a panic if he or she went in to register. Much to our surprise they found the truth quite interesting and were more than happy to let us have rooms for the night.

Across the parking lot from our rooms, the rain (which had now stopped) left a fair sized lake where we were able to rinse off some of the mud and we set about cleaning ourselves and our gear before going into the rooms. Phyllis picked up Mary's muddy sneakers from the floor of the car and tossed them across the parking lot into the puddle along with all of the other things. No one will ever know what went through Mary's mind when she saw her sneakers floating in the puddle because she had very carefully placed a rare, prized specimen in her sneaker for safe keeping. And, no one will ever know how Phyllis managed to throw the sneakers across the parking lot and have them right-side-up in the puddle in such a way that the shell did not fall out.

The next day we did stop at Venice and collected some fossil shark teeth, then roamed around and did a little fossilling in several other spots. But we spent Friday evening and most of Saturday bemoaning the fact that we could not get back into the first area and get to all of those shells that had been uncovered by the rain.

The following is a partial list of the shells that we found in the Sarasota pit. These pits are in the Hawthorne Facies of the Alum Bluff Formation of the Florida Miocene. Some of the specimens are only tentatively identified and others are still unidentified because of a lack of adequate literature, Mary has no doubt been much more successful and more accurate than we in identifying her specimens.

Architectonica nobilis "Bolten" Roeding, 1798
Aurina obtusa (Emmons, 1858)
Bullata taylori (Olsson, 1916)
Busycon canaliculatum Linne'
Busycon perversum Linne'
Cancellaria rotunda Dall, 1892
Cassis sulcifera Sowerby, 1850
Clava caloosaensis Dall
Conus tryoni Heilprin, 1887

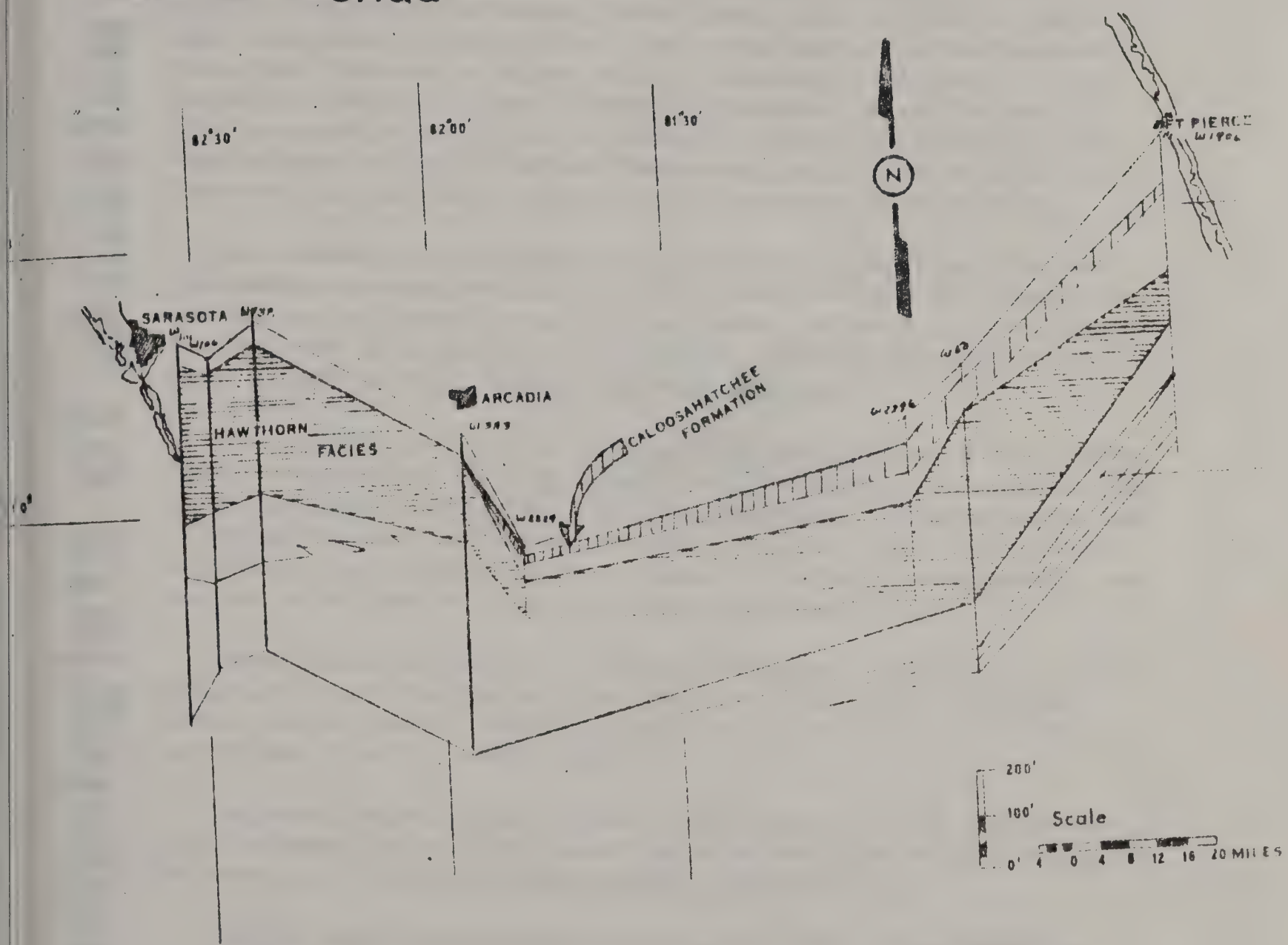
Crucibulum auriculata Gmelin 1780
Fasciolaria (Liochlamys) bulbosa (Heilprin, 1887)
Fasciolaria tulipa Linne'
Fusus caloosaensis Heilprin
Latirus floridanus Heilprin, 1887
Marginella pardalis Dall, 1892
Mitra heilprini (Cossman)
Murex cf. florifer Reeve, 1846
Murex pomum Gmelin
Murex (Pteronotus) textilis Gabb, 1873
Oliva (Ispidula) carolinensis Conrad
Olivella lata Dall, 1892
Phallium hodgii Conrad, 1841
Polynices (Lunatia) internus Say, 1824
Potamides (Pyrasinus) scalatus Heilprin, 1887
Rhinoclavus caloosaensis Dall
Scaphella trenholmii (Tuomey & Holmes, 1851)
Sconsia sp.
Solenosteira mengeana Dall, 1890
Strioterebrum cf seminolum Olsson
Strombus leidyi Heilprin, 1887
Trophon lepidota (Dall, 1890)
Turritella perattenuata Heilprin, 1887
Vasum horridum Heilprin, 1887
Vermicularia sp.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CHINA

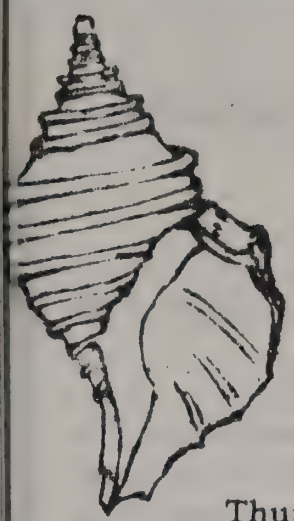
TAIWAN MUSEUM.
TAIPEI, TAIWAN, CHINA

1. NAME (Please type or print): 2. SEX: ☐ M ☐ F
3. NATIONALITY: 4. DATE OF BIRTH: Y M D
5. EDUCATION (Please list last school attended, and highest degree earned):
   School: Degree:
6. OCCUPATION AND POSITION:
7. PAST EXPERIENCE OR POSITIONS HELD (Optional):
8. MAILING ADDRESS:
   Office
   Home
9. TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: [] Ordinary [] Institutional
10. AREA OF INTEREST:
11. PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE [ ]$4.00 Ordinary; [ ]$8.00 Institutional
    Date: Signature:

Panel Diagram of the Post- Avon Rocks of Central Florida



from : Puri, H.S. and R.O. Vernon Special Publication #5 Florida Geological Survey, Pensacola, Fla.



July, 1976

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA CONVENTION IN PORTLAND

The Conchologists of America recently convened at the great Thunderbird Hotel at Jantzen Beach, Portland, Oregon, for four days of lectures, slide shows, travelogues, climaxed with a grand boat trip up the Columbia River, and a fine bus tour of the Portland Rose Test Gardens, a major treat in themselves, followed by a trip to the Seaside home of our convention chairman, Wayne Stevens. A lovely, scenic beach, great for walking, sunning, or shelling. This was followed by lunch at a local restaurant, and a visit to the Astoria Tower in Astoria, with return to the Thunderbird in the evening.

Our weather was generally fair, with cool, invigorating breezes. Our activities were conducted in the meeting rooms of the Thunderbird, and the evening banquet was most enjoyable, followed by a grand shell auction, with Kirk Anders and Tom Rice presiding over the bidding. Over $1,100.00 were received from the auction.

I want to thank Wayne and Marjorie Stevens for their major, eight-month-long efforts, their time, and their enthusiasm, in organizing this great convention. All of the contacting of people, correspondence, and unending details they handled superbly! Our hats off to them!! Their acquisition and awarding of door prizes at intervals throughout the convention in the form of lovely shell books were marvelous!

Many thanks to Tom Rice for his handling and organizing the daily programs, including his own fine program of the East African and Indian Ocean Islands. We're glad that you could stay for the entire convention, Tom! Thanks again.

To Kathi Daniels, our secretary - for the yeoman (or yeowoman?) service these past months, contacting members, correspondence, and the myriad of details involved, many, many thanks!

To Tom and Maxine Hale for their generosity and hospitality in their lovely home and garden, and for sharing their beautiful shell display with us, thanks!

To the Oregon Society of Conchologists - my thanks for your participation in the convention, and for your individual and collective efforts in collaborating with the Stevens in making this a great, successful meeting.

Let's all look forward to next year's meet in Florida.

Bill Bledsoe

Bill Bledsoe, President

MINUTES OF THE C.O.A. CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING - 1976

The annual business meeting of the fifth convention of the Conchologists of America was called to order by the President, Bill Bledsoe at 10:05 AM Saturday June 14, 1976 at the Jantzen Beach Thunderbird Motor Inn in Portland, Oregon. Bill gave our hosts, the Oregon Society of Conchologists and Wayne Stevens, Convention Chairman and their many helpers whose tremendous efforts made the convention an outstanding success COA's "thanks".

The minutes of the last business meeting, held at Virginia Beach in October 1975, were read and approved as was the treasurer's report from that meeting. Under old business, the following by-laws change, proposed in Bulletin 6, page 14 was voted upon and passed:

"Be it resolved that the dual office of Secretary/Treasurer be divided and become two separate offices, with one of the positions held by a person from an entirely different geographic area of the United States than the other."

Under new business, the nominating committee chosen by the President - Kirk Anders, Chairman, Veronica Parker Johns, and Tom Rice presented the following slate of officers for 1977:

President	Sally Bennett, Phoenix, Arizona
Vice-President	Marjorie Stevens, Portland, Oregon
Secretary	John Rathbun, Portland, Oregon
Treasurer	Kathe Daniels, Apollo, Pennsylvania

the slate was unanimously accepted by the membership.

The following convention invitations were presented: a letter from Martin Lerner of the Long Island Shell Club offering to host next year's convention was read by the President and an invitation from the Broward Shell Club in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida was presented by Kirk Anders. The merits of both areas were discussed. It was generally felt, that with AMU being held in mid-July in Naples, Fla., COA should be held the following week and that Ft. Lauderdale would be more easilly accessible for those wishing to attend both conventions. A motion was made by Wayne Stevens and seconded by Joe. Maxwell to hold the 1977 Convention in Ft. Lauderdale and that our thanks be sent to the Long Island Club with the hope that their invitation would be open for 1978, the motion was unanimously accepted. Kirk Anders was appointed Convention Chairman.

A discussion of selecting a nominating committee several months in advance of the annual meeting followed with a majority approving a motion made by Wayne Stevens and seconded by John Rathbun 'that not less than two (2) months prior to the convention a nominating committee shall be appointed by the president. This nominating committee shall then solicit suggestions from the membership for officers for the ensuing year and such nominees can then be contacted for their assurance that they would accept the nomination and would be in attendance at the meeting.

The allocation of surplus funds in the treasury prompted a discussion. Joel Greene proposed their use for scholarships and/or other similar projects. Kathe Daniels stated that with our $ 3.00 membership fee barely covering the printing and mailing costs of the Bulletins, the annual Auction remains our major source of income and we may not always have a surplus. John Rathbun, Wayne Stevens, and Clair Stahl each emphasized the need, based on their other club experiences, to maintain a 'nest-egg" to cover unexpected expenditures. Clair stated that a minimum of $ 5000.00 is needed to invest to back the studies of a graduate student. A motion was made by Jerry Ward, seconded by Kirk Anders and unanimously passed that a five member committee be formed to study a "building fund" for such a project. This committee is to report at the 1977 Convention.

Tom Rice moved a vote of thanks to Marjorie and Wayne Stevens and the Oregon Society of Conchologists, seconded by Kathe Daniels and Unanimously accepted by the membership.

George Buchinoff requested that we write our Congressmen urging that the U.S. publish a series of shells on our postage stamps.

A plea for articles for the Bulletin was made by Clair Stahl and Tom Hale expressed the hope for increased growth in the organization and Bulletin, possible only thru membership participation and contributions.

Next year's officers were introduced to the membership. The business meeting then ended with the move to adjournment made by Tom Rice, seconded and approved by all present.

Kathleen K. Daniels, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT : June 30th 1976

Balance 31 December 1975		$ 1636.93
Receipts :		
	Dues	354.00
	Auction	1148.00
	Back Issues Bulletins (Sales)	24.90
	Convention Registrations	1873.00
		3399.90
		$ 5036.83

Expenses :

Bulletins	263.65
Postage	91.02
Stationary	85.05
Convention Expenses	1871.17
Misc. Expenses	13.57
	2324.46

Balance : $ 2712.37

Current Memberships 147

Kathleen K. Daniels, Treasurer

Program of 1976 Annual Convention of Conchologists of America

Thursday June 17th 1976

8: 30 to 11: 00	Registration
11: 30	Luncheon in the Yumatilla Room.
	Welcome by President Bill Bledsoe
	Welcome by Convention Chairman Wayne Stevens
	Clare Stahl : An Introduction to the Pacific Northwest
1: 20	Kirk Anders : Past COA Conventions
2: 00	Film: Two from the Sea
2: 50	Joel Greene : Shell Freaks, Monsters, & Color Variations
4: 15	James Tobin : Underwater Marine Life

Friday June 18th 1976

9: 05	Dr. Sutolo : Shells on Stamps
10: 00	Jerry Ward : Dredging for Shells
10: 50	Jim White : The Oregon Coast and Some of the Marine Invertebrates Found There
11: 20	Film : Dancing Invertebrates
1 : 05	William E. Bledsoe : Beautiful Shells
1: 50	Sally Bennett : Shelling at Bahia de los Angeles, Baja California
2: 50	Kirk Anders : Bonaire, Caribbean Treasure Chest
3: 45	James S. White : So You want to Write a Shell Book
7: 30	Annual Banquet, followed by ANNUAL SHELL AUCTION

Saturday June 19th 1976

9: 05	Kirk Anders : Shelling in West Africa
10: 00	Tom Rice : Mauritius, Madagascar and the Comoro Islands of East Africa
10: 50	Business Meeting
1: 00 to 1: 30	Departure of boat trip up the beautiful Columbia River Gorge

Sunday June 20th 1976

8: 30	Depart for tge Oregon Coast by bus.

The Bookfinder

PACIFIC MARINE LIFE; A Survey of Pacific Ocean Invertebrates.
DeLuca, Charles J., and Diana Macintire DeLuca. Charles E. Tuttle Company Rutland, Vermont 05701 $ 2.75 (Paperback)

This small book is a very basic introduction to various topics on marine invertebrates particularly of the Pacific Ocean. The text is for the general reader and was developed from a series of phamphlets published for the Waikiki Aquarium as visitor guides. In converting these pamphlets to paperbook size the quality of the illustrations suffered in becoming somewhat indistinct.

FN

NEW ZEALAND SEASHELLS IN COLOUR.
Penniket, J.R. and G.J.H. Moon., A.H. & A.W. Reed. Distributed in the United States by Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont 05701 $ 8.50

This short book is a photographic essay to introduce the general reader to the diverse molluscan fauna of New Zealand. As a means of persenting those Bivalves and Gastropods most likely to be picked up by the visitor to the New Zealand shore. Mr. Moon's photographs and Mr. Penniket's text combine very well. The names used for the species illustrated are the common names current in New Zealand, though the binomial names (less attribution to author) are also included. The mollusks of New Zealand do not include representation in several of the most popular families, and many collections have no shells from these South Pacific Islands. The authors did not attempt to produce a complete illustrated faunal study of the New Zealand Islands - which would be a project far beyond the scope and purpose of this volume. They did accomplish their stated aims and have produced an introduction which can be expanded upon by the reader's own efforts.

FN

SHELLS OF NEW GUINEA AND THE CENTRAL INDO-PACIFIC

Hinton, Alan , published by Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc. Rutland, Vt. $ 12.50

The author has included maps of his subject area as well as some general information on collecting, cleaning, classification and display, but this is principally a book for the identification of shells from the central Indo-Pacific area. And since this is undoubtedly the single most highly productive area in the world for shells, almost every collector finds himself , sooner or later, searching for more authoritative and up-to-date literature on shells from this part of the world. Alan Hinton's book qualifies on both counts.

Shells of New Guinea and the Central Indo-Pacific is a recent book, published by another company in 1972 and then, in the U.S. by Charles E. Tuttle Co.,Inc. in 1975. Mr Hinton was able to incorporate into this book most of the latest information on classification and taxonomy. In addition to being a very experienced collector and cone specialist, he has been much involved in the field of systematics in recent years.

The color plates in this book are certainly of above average quality and are conveniently placed opposite the text, thereby eliminating the need for the reader to be constantly thumbing through the book in search of one or the other. Frequently there are photographs of more than one specimen of a given species, often with color varieties, geographical variations or juveniles illustrated as well.

Because the author is a specialist in cones, the section on this family is expectably large. It is preceeded by an informative description of cones in general with emphasis on the feeding habits, the venom apparatus, and the collecting and handling of cones. Since Alan Hinton has been assisting researchers in the venomology of cones, it is a subject on which he is well qualified to speak.

This is a book that I think every shell collector should have, but one which no cone collector can afford to be without. In my own personal experience, it has proved to be one of the most valuable, most convenient, and most frequently used books in my shell library.

In the four years since the book's original publication, one hears the expression "look it up in Hinton" more and more frequently. This reference to the author rather than to the title, would seem to indicate that Mr. Hinton (and consequently his work) is acheiving the respect and recognition that is accorded to Reeve, Keiner, Pilsbry, and other "greats" in the field.

The sixth annual C.O.A. convention will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on the 20th thru 23rd of July 1977, with a field trip scheduled for the 24th. AMU will be meeting in Naples, Fla. July 10th thru 15th. Kirk Anders will furnish additional details as they become available.

SHELL COLLECTOR'S GUIDE

Fair, Ruth H., Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc., Rutland, Vermont and Tokyo, Japan. $ 8.50

This is a small, well-written, liberally illustrated book that is packed with useful information on all aspects of shell collecting. It is not a book of pretty pictures, nor is it a book for shell identification. It is a practical lesson in do-it-yourself collecting. And although there is a heavy emphasis on collecting in Hawaii, most of the information is basic and applicable anywhere in the world. Mrs. Fair has drawn on her collecting experiences over many years and in many different areas to bring the reader tips on collecting, cleaning and storing shells as well as sections on laws and regulations, equipment, dangers, first-aid, snorkeling and scuba diving, dredging and night collecting. Of course, the experienced collector will already have learned much of this the hard way, but the beginner will find this book invaluable.

The traveler planning a collecting trip to Hawaii would find this book indispensible also. It quite literally supplies a "road map" to the shells. In a separate section of the book, the author takes the reader on a trip around the island of Oahu, section by section, with maps of each area and tips on exactly where to look and what to look for. She also gives helpful information on how to reach inaccessible spots, what dangers (such as strong currents) one might encounter in specific spots, etc.. I have never seen a more precise and detailed account of where, when, and how to find the shells.

In my opinion, this book should be a "must" in every shell collector's library. It can save the inexperienced collector much time, disappointment and frustration and put him well on the road to being a successful, knowledgeable and happy collector. But the veteran collector as well should find this book a welcome addition. If he finds an idea for just one new tool or cleaning method that solves a problem then the book will have been well worth it's modest price.

LN

§ Kathe Daniels has the following back issues of the Bulletin for sale:

# 1	0.50 ea.
2	0.50 "
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She will also supply complete sets at $ 3.00 .

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DON'T FORGET OUR ANNUAL CONVENTION IN FLORIDA
Write to the Convention Chairman Kirk Anders for details.

For those of you who know Mr. Frank Abbottsmith of Australia, and in particular those who have seen his slide programs of his collection will be interested to know that his collection is being offered for sale by Mail Auction.

Frank has completed his work on Multiform Australian Volutes and the collection on which this work (available from Mr. John A. Webb, 27132 Butternut Ridge Road, N. Olmstead, Ohio 44070) was based is now being disposed of. There are 1255 Lots involved in this auction and it it expensive for Mr. Abbottsmith to produce additional copies of this ten page list. If you are interested, and have not gotten your own, please try to make arrangements to borrow a copy or try to get a Xerox copy to use. The bidding will close on Sept. 30th 1977 and there is a minimum of five day lag in getting mail from the US to Australia even by Air Mail so be sure that any bids that you are sending get in the post before Sept. 20th to be sure.

Speaking out

Frank J. Nelson

This issue of the Bulletin will be the last to come out under my Editorship. I have submitted my resignation to take effect as soon as this issue is in the mail.

There are two sets of reasons for my decision, the first concerns only my wife and me and our available time to devote to the large amount of work which I am required to devote to the production of the Bulletin, the second reason, on the other hand, concerns each of you, and I feel that you are entitled to an explanation.

During the entire history of the Bulletin I have received THREE unsolicited articles for inclusion in it. One of these articles appears below. For the rest it was necessary that I wheedle, cajole or browbeat from several people all of the material which it did not fall on my shoulders to write. This necessitated a great deal of reading of material for review, not always the kind of reading material that I would have chosen for my own pleasure or edification. It further necessitated my attempts to produce what I felt would be an exemplary publication; with illustrations, with a responsible point of view regarding book reviews, and with material which would inform and make the reader aware of things which might broaden their collecting horizons.

Perhaps my statement of policy regarding the Editorial Platform to be taken by me: which I used as Speaking Out in the first Bulletin : intimidated many of you. Did my rather strong antipathy to poetry by non-poets put you off? Is my violent bias against a schoolchild cribbing articles from Encyclopedia Britannica or some similar standard reference text something with which you disagree? Whomever my successor is I hope that you will not carry these feelings forward to him (or her).

The degree of apathy which all of you showed in the voting issue - has been mirrored by the lassitude which has been shown toward the submission of articles to the Bulletin. I have editorialized from day-one about the participation which is absolutely necessary, in fact imperitive, to have from every one if a publication is to represent fairly all of the members of an organization. I did not chose to take "the easy way out" by simply copying articles from other shell club publications and other relevant periodicals just to fill pages. In fact my wife, Lee, rewrote several of her own articles which had first appeared in The New York Shell Club Notes before they were included in the Bulletin. With the usual club news paper it is frequently used as a place in which a great deal of lineage is run concerning the activities of the members of that club, that, I feel is quite appropriate only to clubs of limited geographical spread. I took, instead, the attitude that such a personality reporting or social news point of view was not germane to a nation-wide bulletin; perhaps that is just the sort of news that should have been included.

In closing this last editorial I should like to extend my thanks, most sincerely, to the officers of C.O.A. both past and present for the confidence they have shown in my selection of material for the Bulletin as well as for the complete lack of interference by them with respect to any editorial stand I have taken. To the rest of the membership I most earnestly plead that whatever faults have been mine in my stewardship of your Bulletin, you will not carry my guilt over to my successor, and that you will extend all of the support to which he/she is entitled.

Shell Collecting in an Ecologically Enlightened Era

by Robert H. Janowsky

The article below is loosely based on remarks made by me in a symposium entitled "Shell Conservation- The Rape of the Reef" on June 19th 1976 at the Oceans Festival '76 at The New York Acquarium, Brooklyn, New York. The symposium was chaired by Dr. R. Tucker Abbott.

Shelling is against the law in California. Shelling is prohibited in Reunion. Shelling is banned in certain parts of Guadeloupe and Martinique, F.W.I. There is a planned move to have Harpa costata, Linne, 1758 placed on the U.S. Government list of officially endangered species. Shell collectors are blamed for the destruction of portions of Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The list goes on and on. Area after area is closed to the shell collector by federal and local government authorities in all parts of the world in a typically over-reactive manner based on a false and illogically directed "awareness" of the need to protect all that nature provides from the grasp of nature's most vicious predator (us).

It strikes me as rather strange that both men and mollusks have co-existed rather peacefully on this globe for millions of years without the aid of environmental legislation. Archeological digs also point out the fact that man, for almost as long as he has been around, has been a shell collector and has used shells as objects of design, as a medium of exchange, as utilitarian objects etc.. . . During that peroid of time it is impossible to name one species of shell that has been made extinct by over-collecting. Myriad species have been made extinct - do not get me wrong - but I stress, not by over collecting! Polution is the culprit. One oil spill - one new sewage outlet - toxic chemicals dumped in the oceans and in fresh water - there are your killers! As long as we allow such practices to continue unchecked, and in most parts of the world, is it not futile to ban shell collecting. Any of the above items can do more damage in a day than the most thorough shell collectors turned loose on a molluscan species for an indefinate period of time.

We are shell collectors. We have a code of ethics that we follow. We do not collect imperfect specimens or juvenile specimens. We only collect enough specimens to meet our immediate needs. We do not destroy the habitat of our shells. Polution on the other hand operates by no shch code and blindly kills shells, eggs, environment and all. It is, of course, far easier to place the blame on shell collectors who do have a very immediate and visible impact on the environment. Pollution operates in a far more clandestine manner - it's effects are not immediately evident and it is far more difficult to place the blame. Thus shell collectors are serving as a scapegoat.

I am sure that most of you reading this will remembertha hue and cry that was raised several years ago when a sudden population bloom of the Crown-of- Thorns starfish destroyed a great deal of coral reef in the South Pacific. Shell collectors were immediately blamed for this occurance, since they were responsible for over-collecting Charonia tritonis, Linne, 1758 which was the natural enemy ofthese star-fish. The fact that the Charonia seems to prefer eating almost anything it is able to get over the starfish was conveniently over-looked and is now almost forgotten. The fact that this was a natural phenomenon (the increase of the starfish and the decrease of the Charonia) which had been noted before was given little notice. It was those "damned shell collectors" who were killing the reefs and the news media made sure that everyone knew it. Don't think that I'm beating a dead horse since the entire incident is for the most part comfortably forgotten. It, or something like it will occur again. Shells do seem to have a rather cyclic existance in so far as their populations are concerned. The cycles are also not predictable to any great extent and neither are they controllable. It is then ludicrous to suppose that we can control them by our laws.

I think that what must be kept in mind respecting shell collectors is that we represent a miniscule portion of the world's population. I would estimate that there are only perhaps seven to ten thousand people in the world who engage in shell collecting (for any purpose than food gathering - that's a whole 'nother ball game). The popular image of the shell collector as the "little old lady in tennis shoes'" is probably far closer to being realistic than is the image of crazed and irresponsible hoards of people descending on the reefs and rendering them polyp by polyp. There are, and I am quite certainof it no shells that are rare in nature. I feel that there in nature enough specimens available to allow each and every shell collector to have one represented in his collection, and still leave enough specimens to continue the life of the species. If there are shells that are hard to find it is because we don't know where to get them or we are incapable of reaching their habitat. That is unless polution gets them . . . . . .

I will mention only briefly the contributions of shell collectors to the understanding of mollusks. And the many invaluable contributions made by shell collectors, their observations and discoveries are made because because they are interested in collecting shells - they would not have occurred otherwise. I will also briefly mention that a great number of shells in collections today are obtained by fishing and shrimping trawlers as a by product of their operations. I don't know of a single boat operating today that goes out with the express purpose of collecting shells - it is not economically feasable to do so. These shells would be dead anyway unless shrimping and fishing are also banned, which is quite unlikely.

I conclude that as shell collectors we should remain free to enjoy our hobby or avocation without mindless and illthought out legislation. As shell collectors who are consciencious we should honor and respect our code of ethics and an even higher sense of what is right. And as shell collectors we should seek the removal of the onus of guilt that is placed on us by the population at-large by pointing out the real culprits who are responsible for the rape of the reef and fighting them in every way possible.

§Some of the above material is from personal communications with Dr. R. Tucker Abbott.

The Bookfinder

Sea Life of The Pacific Northwest. Stefani Hewlett and K. Gilbey Hewlett McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd., Toronto $ 14.95 1976

This book was written by a husband and wife team whose occupations as curator and assistant to curator of the Vancouver Public Aquarium make them uniquely qualified to write it. A large format book usually is a pure and simple " Coffee Table Book " and is just a vehicle for great pictures, Sea Life doesn't end there, even though the illustrations are well done and are appropriate to the text.

The Pacific Northwest region has a very long coastline reaching from Northern Baja California all the way to Alaska forming a remarkably uniform bio-geographic province having a temperature range of extraordinary uniformity. With an average temperature difference of only four degrees F. from north to south this narrow thermal range makes it possible for the same life forms to inhabit the entire range. While the life forms found in this region in terms of particular species is not necessarilly the same as the range to be found in any comparable area in size or thermal distribution, the ecological nitches to be filled are the same as for any cool-temperate zone, which is to say that a Chiton in Oregon behaves and lives very much like a Chiton in Japan.

The entire littoral biota of the Pacific Northwest is described Phylum by Phylum and the interrelation of plant to animal and animal as well is discussed. There are many simplified diagrams of the anatomy of the animal groups covered and a very large number of photographs illustrating the species chosen to represent these groups. The discussion is not geared to the expert or to the specialist, but to every person who has ever walked along a beach and looked with interest at the teeming life in a tide pool or on a wave wet rock. When ever a book is written for a popular audience the temptation to write down to that audience is hard to resist and it is even more difficult when the writers are knowledgable people in their particular field. The Hewletts have side stepped this Scylla with out stepping into the Charibdis of writing a book comprehensible only to a professional reader. This is a very readable book and an informative one as well.

To review a book fairly, it is frequently necessary, to go back to other books that one has read or reviewed previously and make comparisons with them. At the risk of charges of male chauvanism I must point out that in the last several years we have reviewed some books by amateurs, ladies in the two most notable cases, in which the enthusiasms of people without appropriate knowledge and education could not overcome those lacks. How much better a book written by a couple who can have shared their bathtub with baby seals, or have tried to live off the sea while on vacation trips Than by " the little old lady in tennis shoes " of whatever ilk.

You might never have the opportunity to walk the beaches of the Pacific Northwest in person, and that would be a shame. If you can't then I can recommend no better proxies than the Hewletts.

FJN

The World's Shells, A Guide for Collectors. S. Peter Dance, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York $10.95 1976

Peter Dance has done it again; another book, and another good and useful one at that. To point out that this is not a picture and/or shell identification book really says very little about it. The World's Shells is a well written book which communicates the author's own enthusiasms, and his long years of working in the field, which he can still approach with the beginner's sence of wonder and awe.

Perhaps one of the best things that one might say of Mr. Dance is that he has added, with each of his books, to the popular conchological literature eminently readable ones which touch upon topics not frequently dealt with. This book covers a wide range of topics from the pure delights of shell collecting to the individual to the multi-person delights of the public shell show.

The chapters are Nomenclature, Classification, Where to Find Shells, Collecting, Arranging, Biology, the Raising and Studying the Live Animals, the Distribution Pattern of the Animals, a discussion of the Form of the Shell, and too there are chapters on the reasons for the popularity of certain families, purchasing and exchanging and the valuing of shells. A chapter entitled 'Shells which Deceive" brings to the readre's attention the often confusing and seemingly caotic melange of form and pattern in which shells have been placed by the professional as being members of the same family in some kind of magical and inexplicable "Natural Order". A careful reading of this chapter alone would make this book valuable; if it does nothing else than to make the reader aware of the need to look beyond the trivial and often superficial shell resemblances to the deeper relations determined by biological and genetic relationships which determine placement of species into genera, families etc..

I would be inclined to say that if a shell collector's library is a limited one that this book together with Mr. Dance's "Collector's Encyclopedia of Shells " and one of the area handbooks or a book dealing with the collector's favorite family or genus would make a very good working bookshelf.

In addition to very readable English, which I appreciate, the illustrations are good and well chosen. They range from seventeenth century book pages through some of the plates from the great iconographies of the past to new photographs and drawings especially prepared for this book.

If I have any complaint to make about this book it is aimed toward the printer pages 122 ans 123 are transposed, this makes for several startling sentances 'till the reader recognises the reason.

My opinion remains, buy this one! . . .

fjn

Keeping Live Corals and Invertebrates Robert P.L. Straughan A.S. Barnes and Co. Cranbury, New Jersey $ 14.50 1975

If you are one of the many people becoming interested in marine aquaria, or if you would like to watch fascinating creatures in your own home then this is a book for you. Perhaps you live in an area remote from the sea-shore, or for one reason or another you are not able to join the SCUBA movement, or want to watch the life cycle of a particular species of interest to you or for any of a number of other reasons, a salt water aquarium might be just the thing for you.

Mr. Straughan has provided all of the directions that you will need to set-up and stock the home aquarium. Just think, a single living rock set-up in a well prepared aquarium could live and grow for years, providing great delight the whole time.

There is a chapter listing twenty five invertebrate species which the author feels do best in the home aquarium and gives very particularized directions regarding them.

I must take the author to task, though, for anthropomorphizing some of these creatures. He describes and includes a series of photographs which show two Fasciolaria hunteria, Perry, 1811 dining on a clam, which he feels seems to demonstrate a high degree of intelligent cooperation between two animals. This demonstration was repeated three times and the results were the same each time, however since during the experiments only ONE food item (a clam in this case) was placed in the tank with two predators did this in fact represent absolute cooperation between the predators? Since only one source of food was present would it not be equally a demonstration of cooperation if one of the predators took the position of allowing it's hungrier associate to feed while the first one waited? Some years ago a book was written to debunk the scientific community and it's reliance on experiments and used as a demonstration of the failure of extrapolation from experiments the following:

"Friday I drank twelve whiskey and sodas, and I got very drunk!
Saturday I drank twelve scotch and sodas, and I got very drunk!
Sunday I drank twelve brandy and sodas, and I got very drunk! "

ergo, Soda is a very intoxicating drink since it was the common culprit in each case. This is very Lewis Carrol type logic:

" Just the place for a Snark! I have said it Twice:
That alone should encourage the crew.
Just the place for a Snark! I have said it Thrice:
What I tell you three times is true."

Had Mr. Straughan varied the procedure of his experiments I, for one, should have found his observations at once startling and valuable.

The value of this book does not lie in the author's speculations, but in the directions and instructions for setting up aquaria and caring for their inhabitants.

Biological Techniques, Collecting, Preserving, and IllustratingPlants and Animals, Jens W. Knudsen Harper and Row, Publishers, New York 1966

The very first sentance in the Preface sets forth the author's purpose "This book has been written as a textbook for courses in Biological Techniques on Museum Techniques and to meet the needs of those who are involved in working with Natural History material" and I for one think that the author has succeeded admirably.

Much of the material covered by this book naturally, is not in the specific subject area of the shell collector's interests. Only one chapter is devoted entirely to the Mollusk as a topic. In that chapter, though, the author combines a great wealth of good information on collecting sites and techniques together with such useful directions as the preparation of the radula. The very obvious, to the professional, though not so much so to the amateur directions for numbering opercula to correspond with the shells from which they have been removed to insure that they can be restored to the proper specimens is the sort of thing that Prof. Knudsen has included. Some of the other chapters contain valuable information as well, in fact, one might consider this as a very useful collecting and preserving handbook.

For the person with a modicum of mechanical skill and access to a workshop this book contains a valuable bonus in having clear and concise directions and drawings for building storage cabinets and other apparatus.

This book, now ten years old, might not be as easilly gotten as some of the others which I have reviewed for The Bulletin, but the effort involved in locating a copy will be well repayed for those of you who excert your immaginations to obtain it.

Culture Methods for Invertebrate Animals, A Compendium prepared cooperatively by American Zoologists under the direction of a committee from Section F of The American Association for the Advancement of Science. eds, Paul S. Galtsoff, Frank E. Lutz, Paul S. Welch, & James G. Needham Chairman Dover Publications Inc., New York $ 1.50 1959 - A reprint of the 1937 Edition by Comstock Publishing Co.

Now that's a lot of title, and would you believe, in 590 pages the editors have put together 313 articles which represent the concentrated work of a large body of specialists. The collecting hints, the drawings and directions for building tools that will make collecting easier and the hints for keeping the collected materials alive are simple straightforward and eminently practical. This paperbacked and inexpensive book has been around for fourty years, and with good reason. Any one who collects live material or wants to keep live material living should have this book close at hand because it will get frequent and good use.

The Sea Beach at Ebb-Tide, A Guide to the Study of the Seaweeds and the Lower Animal Life found between the Tide Marks Augusta Foote Arnold Dover Publications Inc., New York $ 4.00 © 1901

Seashore Animals of the Pacific Coast Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson, Ph.D. and Harry James Snook, M.S. Dover Publications Inc., New York $ 4.50 © 1927

The Littoral Fauna of Great Britain, A Handbook for Collectors N.B.Eales, Sc. D. Cambridge at the University Press. O.P. © 1950

Guide to Identification of Marine and Estuarine Invertebrates, Cape Hatteras to the Bay of Fundy Kenneth L. Gosner Wiley-Interscience, a Division of John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York $ 13.50 1971

A Handbook to the Common Intertidal Invertebrates of the Gulf of California Richard C. Brusca The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, Ariz. $10.95 1973

No, that's not an error, there are five books listed above. All of these books are connected by a common theme.

Each of these books is a comprehensive handbook to the life forms unique to the sea shore environment of it's own particular area. Taxonomic keys are provided in the books by Eales, Gosner, and Brusca which makes identifying unfamiliar specimens by "keying out "a very simple and straightforward proceedure. All of the books are well illustrated with line drawings, though, Arnold and Johnson & Snook do have photographs as well. Drawings, provided that they are clear and distinct, usually show details better than photographs and they make identification easier.

The geographic range of each of these books is different and perhaps only one of them would be relevent to the area in which you do most of your collecting. Chose the one which covers the area of your own special interest, naturally, if you do buy any one of them, and then only if your interest in collecting involves doing your own field collecting. You might find that one of the four books that are still available would be invaluable in planning your next collecting trip into an unfamiliar collecting area.

I have, myself, lived and collected in many of these areas and have considerable personal familiarity with England, the Atlantic Coast, and the Pacific Coast but I have never had the pleasure of collecting in the Gulf of California. If ever I do get the opportunity to go to The Sea of Cortez you can be sure that Mr. Brusca's book will be in my luggage and that I'll have reread it thoroughly before I set off.

Books which cover the entire biomass present in a single area may not be for every one of you. Think, if you will, of the advantages that will accrue to your shell collecting and shell collection which could also enhance your pleasure too. Having better data more complete and accurate will make your collection of greater value to your self and will certainly make the specimens which you trade with others more desirable. Understanding the interrelations between the members of the whole biota in a particular collecting site will make it easier to discover the hiding place of those special specimens that you are looking for. I grant that there are at least as

. . .

many collectors more familiar with the dealers lists as there are collectors who go out into the field and collect for themselves. If you are the kind of collector that I am then these books are at least as necessary to you as tide-tables and accurate maps. If all of your field collecting is done on annual trips to the sea shore then a knowledge of what you might find and where, learned in advance, will keep you from being "shut-out" and wasting the precious few days that you can devote to your trip. Expand your horizons with this kind of background and your collection will take on new dimensions of pleasure.

FJN .

Guide to Shells. A.H.P. Oliver, Illustrated by James Nicholls. Quadrangle Nature Series, A Demeter Press Book, Quadrangle/New York Times Book Co., New York. $ 9.95 1975

With such an omnibus title one could expect something either quite different from what one finds or mores-the-pity the "same old thing". This book is an example, well and profusely illustrated of the "same old thing". Of 153 pages of illustrations FIVE! are devoted to Bivalvia and ONE page covers four classes - Cephalopoda, Scaphopoda, Amphineura, and Monoplacophora. To say that 147 pages of illustrations are devoted to marine Gastropoda certainly sounds familiar doesn't it.

The author states "so I have given up the struggle and selected those which I should most like to see illustrated", that statement of purpose strikes me as being just about the least reasonable excuse for writing a book that I can think of! The illustrations are in fact very well done and far above the level to which we have become accostumed. BUT is this sufficient reason to add one more World-wide sea shell book covering the very same material to the already too large body of the same?

Mr. Oliver goes into quite an extensive example of the difficulty of properly identifying shells, using a Chicoreus species he points out that this specimen is illustrated on a later page. After meandering about the point for three paragraphs he never really points out what species is illustrated by this mystery shell nor by what authority he feltconfident enough to illustrate it as, in fact, a sufficiently representative example of that species so as not to add his admitted confusion to that of the reader.

Buy this book if you must, the illustrations do lift it out of the entirely commonplace, but don't expect that it will provide any more assistance to you than a number of cheaper books can and will do.

FJN

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FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PAGE 2

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BANQUET $8.00 EACH

JULY 23 JUNGLE QUEEN DINNER & SHOW $10.75 EACH

WHILE AT THE CONVENTION, I WILL: GIVE A TALK

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C/O P.O. BOX 1418; FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. 33302

FROM THE CONVENTION CHAIRMAN:

We have all worked hard to make this convention THE one you'll remember! The fun starts on the morning of July 20th with registration and meeting your fellow conventioneers. Opening session commences at 1:00 p.m. with the talks lasting until 4:00 p.m. Following the end of the talks everyone will board the Voyager Train for a tour of "The Venice of America" - Fort Lauderdale. At the tour's conclusion all are invited to a no-host cocktail party until its time for dinner.

On the 21st there are programs all day. That evening one can enjoy independent sightseeing, or join the group for a super dinner and show at the famous MAI KAI RESTAURANT. This typical polynesian establishment is the finest in the country and our dinner includes appetizers of egg roll, Shanghai chicken, Tahitian cheese tangs and crab Rangoon; supper entre of green bean chicken or pork foo yung; dessert is followed by a great Polynesian revue.

Friday the 22nd is the day for a field trip to SEAQUARIUM and PLANET OCEAN. This all-day outing starts at 9:00 a.m., returning at 4:00 p.m. SEAQUARIUM is one of the finest of its type with killer whales, dolphin and fish by the thousands. PLANET OCEAN is a new attraction built by the International Oceanographic Foundation and explains much about the sea and the creatures that live there as well as the physical properties and conditions of our planet's seas. Back to the Ramada Inn (or your accomodations) in time to spruce up the the Annual 'Banquet and Auction this evening.

Saturday, July 23, is taken up by talks, slide shows and fun. This evening features the JUNGLE QUEEN TOUR and DINNER. This large boat will comfortably seat all our conventioneers for a ride up the New River, passing famous homes and parks to an island retreat where you'll be served dinner family style. Get set for a show and sing-along on the way back down the river.

Sunday morning is the annual business meeting and the election of officers. The 1977 Convention of the Conchologists of America concludes. Sunday afternoon we hope to start a field trip - for the next 2½ days, 2 nights - for collecting and sightseeing on the famous FLORIDA KEYS.

Throughout the convention, thanks to the efforts of R. Wayne Stevens, we'll be giving away dozens of fantastic shell books, donated to us by their publishers as door prizes for our Annual Convention. You have to be there to be lucky.

In conjunction with the Conchologists of America Convention '77 there will be a shell show for you to attend and enjoy. It's a competitive show and we're sure you'll learn from it.

I urge those of you who are able, to volunteer to give a talk, slide presentation, etc. And to EVERYONE, Please fill out and return, with your check, the form for ADVANCE REGISTRATION on page one of this issue.

See you in sunny Fort Lauderdale,

KIRK ANDERS Convention Chairman

C.O.A. MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Major Areas of Interest: Marine _____ Freshwater _____ Land _____

Fossils ____ Other _____ Genera: _____

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WHY NOT JOIN THE FUN TODAY! The only nationwide shell club.

NEW SPECIES OF CALLIOSTOMA FROM THE TERTIARY OF VIRGINIA

J. J. PARODIZ

Reprinted, with permission, from the Pittsburgh Shell Club Bulletin, March 1976

Recommendation 8A of the I.C.Z.N. proscribes the use of mimeographic publications (such as this Bulletin) to describe new species or to give new names. Therefore, the official description of the species named below will appear presently in a scientific journal for the purposes of its validity. The present advancement in our Bulletin is intended only as a notification of the novelty, since it was recently collected by one of our most active members, Mrs. Jay J. Tripp, to whom the author dedicates the species with a great deal of pleasure.

Calliostoma jayae, n. sp.

Diagnosis: Shell not umbilicated, approximately as wide as high, whorls concave, sculpture with smooth -- not beaded -- spiral cords with double carina and canaliculated at periphery; apertural lip festooned.

Description: Shell with almost six whorls (5 + 4/5 or, 5 + 248°) ; those corresponding to the spire, concave. The protoconch has 1½ globose and polished whorls, and these, plus the rest of the second whorl, are iridescent. At the middle of the second whorl starts a regular and smooth spiral cord, doubled in the third, and so increasing successively to six in number in the last whorl; spaces between are deep and as wide as the cords. In the penultimate whorl there are also thread-like spirals between the cords. The cords are not beaded. Beginning with the third whorl, the base of each is marginated with a strong, rounded keel; such keel is repeated immediately at the top of the next whorl, leaving a canaliculated space between, which corresponds to the sutural area, although the suture is indistinct; the deep canal preceding the lower keel is flattened, and it is more evident at the periphery marking the carina between spire and base, but the carina continues to its distal end at the outer lip. Aperture subquadrate, its beight being less than half of that of the shell. The inner--columellar--margin of the aperture falls obliquely to the basal which is straight and crenulated by a festoon as well as the outer lip, corresponding to the ending of the cords and carina. Base sculptured with sixteen spiral and finer cords, which increase in width from border to center, and the last two, around the umbilical zone, very strong; ending on the lip these cords thicken, marking the sinuous edge of the lip. Columella thick with a wide area, flat, to the left, and with a small protuberance at the base but not constituting a true tooth. Umbilicus completely closed.

Dimensions: Height 9.2 mm.; width 10mm. Aperture 4 mm. at its highest and 4½ mm. wide. Diameter of last whorl at top (canal) 7½ mm. Spiral angle in relation to axis 80°. Sutural divergence from base 5°. Obliquity of the base left to the lip in relation to base, 35°.

Type locality: Rice's Pit, Hampton, Virginia, collected by Jay J. Tripp, October 6, 1975, among debris of middle Miocene deposits (Tortonian-Samartian), together with other fossil specimens as Conus stearnsi Conrad, and Polinices catenoides (Wood). A single specimen.

Remarks: This small and graceful Calliostoma differs from any of the living or Tertiary known species by its peculiar not beaded sculpture and the bicarinate-canaliculated periphery. Among the living species it can be compared to C. pamleri Dall from Ecuador and its allied C. nonorum Pilsbry & Olsson surviving from the Pliocene in the same region, both having slightly concave whorls, but apart from geographical difference, C. jayae can be clearly distinguished; in those species the umbilicus may or may not be open and if any ancestral relationship existed with our new Atlantic species, it can be accounted to the communication that existed between western Atlantic and eastern Pacific during the late Tertiary. C. eximium Reeve from Baja California has a similar shape, but it is higher and the spiral cords do not form carinae.

If this species has been collected previously, it probably was mistaken for C. cyclus Dall, 1892 (Trans. Wagner Inst. Phila. 3 (2):403, pl. 23, f. 20) which has a similar keel on the periphery only, not on the upper whorls, flat-sided spire instead of concave whorls, suture not canaliculated, umbilicus large and deep, and shell much wider than high. In a similar way it can be compared to C. iheringi Ortmann from the Patagonian formation (lower Miocene). This shows that this species-group of Calliostoma has an extensive distribution when the now colder southernmost areas of the Atlantic were subtropical.

The strongest double carinated species with a canal between cords in the western Atlantic is C. cubanum Clench & Aguayo, but differs conspicuously by its beaded sculpture and its estimated proportions with a much higher spire. From C. occidentalis (Mighels & Adams) which has w wider distribution in the North Atlantic, C. jayae differs by its shorter spire, whorls not convex (the last one in occidentalis is decidedly globose), wider columellar area and subquadrate aperture.

Henry C. Lea (1843) described several species -- as Trochus -- from the Tertiary of Florida (T. armillus, conus, lens, torquatus, aratus and ruffini); besides being exceedingly small (from 2-4 mm.) these species differ in shape, umbilicus and sculpture, and there is none with concave whorls.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The collecting trip on which Jay Tripp collected this new species of Calliostoma was a part of the Conchologists of America's 1975 Convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Maybe someone will come up with a new species on the 1977 trip to Bimini just prior to this year's Convention! Please read Jay Tripp's account of her "find" on page 5.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

First, in this shortened version of an Editor's column, a thank you to those who have helped get this first issue under my temporary editorship out. Without input from the membership all our efforts to put out an informative and interesting newsletter will go for naught. We need your help to make both the C.O.A. and our readership grow.

We are interested in any article that tells of shells, shelling, trips, favorite shells, personalities, etc. Things that you may be able to pass along to the rest of us to help us enjoy our fascinating hobby even more. Contact me or one of those who have consented to be an Associate Editor, our addresses are on page 1. We are not adverse to reprinting interesting articles from your local shell club's newsletter, so send those in as well.

Our next issue will appear in August, with a report on the 1977 Convention, which promises to be biggest and best yet. Send in your items by July 15th, please. Tom TOM RICE

MORE STATELY MANSIONS

DR. BYRON W. TRAVIS

Most of us are quite familiar with the poem titled "The Chambered Nautilus" by Oliver Wendell Holmes, and we can take from our shell collections at least one beautiful specimen to confirm the beauty of the shell, and see how a writer would be inspired. Yet there is another builder in lime at least as inspirational as the Nautilus, whose house is not found in our collections nearly as often as it deserves. This Is the little Xenophora, one of the most remarkable builders to be found. I am a student of anthropology, eager to gather information about the presence of man upon this earth for so many past generations. And one of the significant things we always look for is the finding of artifacts and tools indicating that these past inhabitants of our earth could devise and use tools. An indication of knowledge and skill, the evidence of humanity, is the fact that ancient man used tobls, for the obtaining of food, to achieve greater comfort, and to create homes and civilizations.

The beautiful Nautilus does build, in a way, but having started a home, it merely adds rooms, in order to continue to exist. It does not use a tool particularly, in the ordinary sense, nor does it put forth any particular effort in order to expand or decorate its home. It merely puts in a partition, and moves around in a circle, for greater convenience, and the fact that otherwise it could not continue existence. In some respects the Nautilus lives like a batchelor who does not bother to wash his dishes, or keep his house clean. He merely lays aside the used articles and starts afresh! But the carrier shell has ideas of ambition, and proceeds with a definite plan --- of action in the decoration of its shell, selecting with care what material is available in its environment, and places that material with care and patience and skill exactly where it wishes the addition to be made. And it is not something done secretely, hidden from all eyes, but openly for all to see, inviting scrutiny it would seem, as B. R. Bales said, quoted by R. Tucker Abbott in "American Sea Shells", like a female Xenophora calling over a backyard fence to her girl friend to "Come and see the perfect dream of a shell I picked up today, and tell me if I have it on straight." Every collector should have at least one of these lovely specimens in his or her collection.

Some time ago I started collecting Xenophora, being fascinated with the ingenuity of this little animal, what it was able to do in whatever environment it found itself, with whatever material was available, under most adverse conditions. I term it a miracle shell; imagine a small snail being able to move about and select the material it intends to use, then without hands or any device to use as a tool other than its pitiful little foot being able to place this material where it should go, then manufacturing an adhesive and fastening it there permanently under water, so that it will probably never be removed even upon the death of the inhabitant of the shell. Every particle or shell is very carefully selected, and particularly placed so as to not impede movement, in an orderly fashion. I have taken these shells when I am speaking to some organization, and find people are always fascinated by their appearance, and the story of their life.

The Xenophora is found widely over the earth, though generally in tropical or semitropical waters. We obtain them from the South Pacific, the waters of Japan, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand. We get them from South Africa, North Africa and the Mediterranean. We find them in the Caribbean, off Florida and Puerto Rico, abd also off the coast of Mexico and Central America. And there are both strange differences, and strange similarities, baffling us as to how they happen to be where they are, and why generally similar species are found so far apart. We are puzzled by such a variety of names for shells so much alike, probably caused by scientists bewildered at the appearance of a shell in a new and different location, not realizing it is the same shell found elsewhere and already named. And to our amazement a specimen known to take particular delight in attaching clam shells, as the conchyliophora off Florida, will be found off Puerto Rico decorating itself with stones. Surely it could have found shells, and why did it encumber itself with such heavy material, which must have been horribly difficult to carry about, and to cope with in making a living. One sometimes has the same perplexity in seeing neighbors put up with accumulating debris and living under adverse conditions, when others are so neat and efficient in their manner of life. I find a vast similarity between the Xenophora and people around me; it is fascinating.

In trying to trace the ancestry of such a remarkable animal, I have been able to obtain a few fossils, taken from our east coast, and from Italy. Apparently this little animal has covered the earth for millions of years, following some remote origin. And it amazes me, from the learned lectures I have read on evolution and the development of species thru eons of time, that this little snail evidently decided long ago that there was no sense in making changes. It was able to cope with any period of earthly history, and has remained the same. You cannot hold such a fossil in your hand and see any notable difference between it and its family today, other than that the vast time between has removed the shells or material once decorating its little house. But there still remains clear evidence of how it appeared long ago, much more so than archaeologists find in past civilizations, as at Byblos, where they have excavated evidence of as many as nine civilizations, one atop the other. But you must imagine a great deal, for so little remains, and it is do different. The little Xenophora built so sturdily that except for outer decorations, his house remains intact. I have looked for years for a fossil abalone, without success. Why such a sturdy shell does not exist among fossils intrigues me, for it also grew everywhere, and is built well enough to survive. I have heard of one in a New Zealand museum, but cannot be sure. Yet the Xenophora is found in considerable numbers, in recognizable condition.

While I have a rather complete collection, except for one or two very rare species, I continually add interesting shells because of variations in appearance, a different habit of collection, and different arrangements. One problem is that we have to take what collectors and dealers in shells offer, when we would like very much to be able to select our shells before we buy. And apparently the supply is disappearing, for not many are offered for sale now, and prices are fast mounting. If you wish to add one to your collection, you had better do it in a hurry, while still available, and they are reasonable to obtain. And it will never fail to please you when you see the surprise and interest among friends when you show them your specimen, and describe how it lived, and cared for itself. And you will have something far more remarkable, in its way, than the Nautilus. The Nautilus never builds more stately mansions, though sometimes the poem does inspire us to give more attention to our souls. It is the Xenophora which is able to vary its building, and to indulge in variety as it uses its skills and imagination in building. HERE is the miracle shell!

How about sending us your article on your favorite group of shells? How did you get interested in them? Why should the rest of us be at all interested in them? What are some of the fascinating things these critters do?

Send your article in today to either the Editor or one of the Associate Editors. Addresses are on page one.

FUN FOSSILING AT THE C.O.A.

JAY TRIPP

Four days spent at the fourth annual meeting of the Conchologists of America were a fun-filled party! We met in October at Virginia Beach, Va. The meeting was attended by members from all over the country: amateurs, advanced-amateurs, professionals, and dealers. The papers and films were enlightening and entertaining, shell displays fascinating, an exciting shell auction, parties galore, and everyone was in a happy and relaxed mood. The meeting had been well planned, including a trip to Colonial Williamsburg.

For me the highlight of the whole deal was not the ocean in front of our motel as I had expected, but driving inland, away from the Recent marine mollusks I normally collect.

Wylda Stephens, a personable resident of the area arranged a fossiling trip to Hampton, Va. Rice's Pit, in the middle of a suburban community, is privately owned and for a small fee we collected fossil shells from the Miocene of Virginia -- estimated to be 16-18 million years old. There had been rumors through our C.O.A. ranks that "at Rice's you don't have to dig, you just stoop over and pick shells off the ground". I didn't quite believe this, so carried along a sturdy trowel. However, the rumors were true and I also needed the trowel.

As soon as we began our descent into the Pit, along a sloping, circular path made by a mechanical shovel, I began to see beautiful and perfectly preserved Turritella alticostata Conrad, which proved to be the most common available species.

Halfway to the pit bottom, I sat down and began sifting through the shell debris from rain-eroded cuts in the vertical sides of the pit. Here I found specimens of: Cadulus thallus Conrad, Pairieria stimpsonii (Dall), Sinum fragile Conrad, Oliva webbi Olsson, Dentalium attenuatum Say, Trophon lepidota Dall, Pyrula lyrasoma sulcosa Conrad, Cymatosyrinx lunata (Lea), Polinices catenoides (Wood), Conus stearnsi Conrad, Crepidula fornicata (Linnaeus), Serpulorbis niisei (Morch), Pelecypoda species, and Trochidae species. These shells were everywhere, on every level of the pit.

Moving down further into this great wide hole in the ground where the clay soil was wet and soggy, I began to dig into the side of a vertical cut. In about 45 minutes of digging, steaming, and sliding on the muddy footing, a huge 5.3" Lyropecten jeffersonius edgecombiensis Conrad appeared intact. I really thought I had a dinosaur bone!

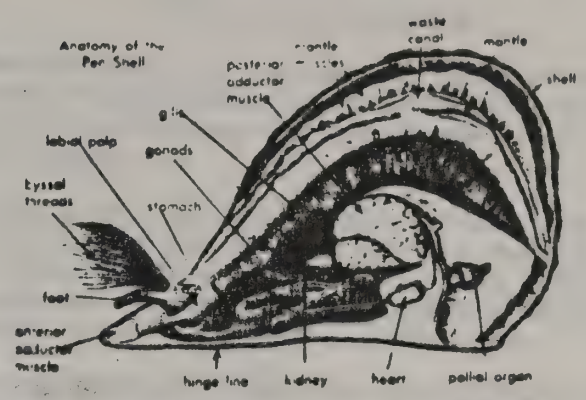
The Pecten was not a thing of beauty as were the clean, white small species. Each valve was literally covered with tremendous growths of ancient barnacles and between the valves was six pounds of wet clay. Happily, the barnacles proved to be soft and crumbly and were easily cleaned away.

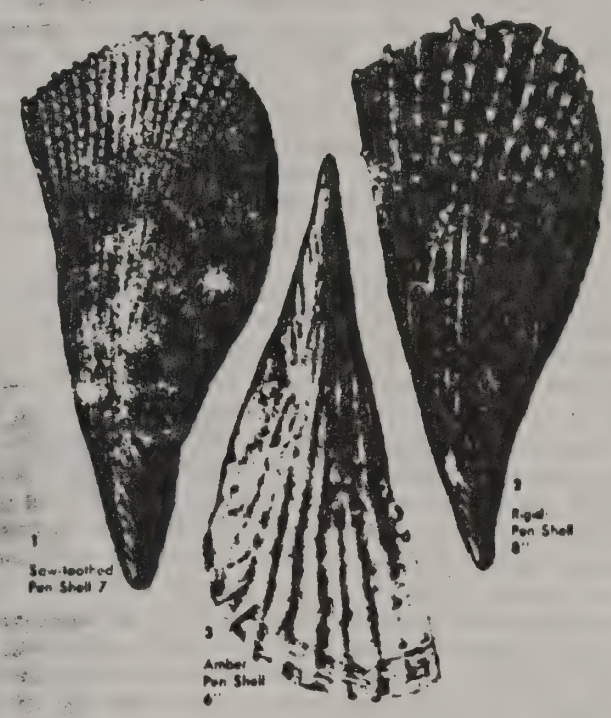
Among the 17 or so species collected, my prize is a new species of Trochidae which Jose Parodiz has described elsewhere in this Bulletin: Calliostoma jayae Parodiz!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above was reprinted, with permission, from the Pittsburgh Shell Club Bulletin of March 1976.

PINNIDAE - PEN SHELLS

LILLIAN HEMMIE





Pinnidae are unique among the clams - the shell has both an anterior and a posterior muscle scar - (in trying to find these, I was confused - as I always thought the anterior was the front of anything, the posterior what was behind), but eventually I learned that anterior was what pointed ahead when the animal crawled, the posterior was the part that trailed behind! Of course the Pen Shells move very little, mostly burrowing down; I doubt that anyone ever saw one crawling!

When I first started getting interested in shells, I saw no reason for knowing about the animals, but I found that you have to know about the animals to really understand why the shells are like they are, and I have found it so very fascinating!

As we know, the Pen Shells live upright in the sand or mud, and the small foot spins byssus threads to anchor it to rocks and broken shells - that is what the books say - I have tried and tried to find one so anchored, so I could show it to others, so far I have only found them spread in the clay or sand, with tiny bits of shells on them. Most collectors do not save the byssal threads, but to me, that is like the operculum of other shell animals.

The two valves are usually just above the surface of the sand to collect their food from the water, therefore they get a lot of sand, broken shells, debris as the tides go in and out. So they have a unique finger-like organ that pushes the debris out into the waste canal between the two mantles which forms a strong current to carry away the debris. Continued on page 6, first column.

PINNIDAE - PEN SHELLS
Continued from page 5

It is also different from other bivalves by uniting the two valves by a dark, non-elastic ligament along the anterior margin, then along the posterior margin by a fusion of the outer prismatic shell layer, called a secondary ligament. There are no hinge teeth as in most bivalves.

There has been no work done on the growth or reproduction of this animal. The shells are very fragile and break easily, due to the large crystals of calcite. The young begin life as minute bivalves and growth proceeds in the posterior direction, leaving the equilateral embryonic valves perched on the umbos of the young adults, which are usually worn away before long.

The Atrina species (I wondered why so many had that name and found that it is Latin for dark or black) are found in all warm waters, while the Striptopinna are found only in the Indo-Pacific region. I had never even seen an Amber Pen Shell, so I was very thrilled to find them in the Caribbean Sea, off the island of Bonaire, on a recent shelling trip.

The Pen Shell animal makes its shell in two layers of lime material from the water. The outer or prismatic layer is composed of large calcite crystals laid at right angles to the long axis of the shell. The partial inner layer of nacreous or iridescent material, aragonite (calcium carbonate), is produced parallel to the long axis.

The outer shell is made rough to help anchor it in the sand. Barnacles, tube worms and small clams anchor on the shell too. A tiny crab lives in the mantle. The periostracum is usually worn away.

The Pen Shells have produced pearls of moderate value in the Mediterranean. We all know about the byssal threads that the foot spins to anchor itseld; these threads from Pinna nobilis (the amber shell from the Mediterranean) was spun into high quality garmets before silk was known - it made the "Golden Fleece". A large shell produced one gram of the substance. A pair of stockings made from these byssal threads was presented to the Pope - stockings so fine that they were kept in a snuff box. Tanranto, Italy had an important byssus industry until recent times; they used one-third silk and produced a fine warm material.

The shell's posterior muscle is delicious and eaten in Japan and the islands of Polynesia. The shell itself is carved into decorative articles and used as plates.

Pen Shells are indeed another of Nature's wonders!

Continued from column to right.

surf is calm. Every shelling trip is a new adventure and I learn something about shells from each expedition.

My friend, who has guided me across the reefs of Guam, has left for new hunting grounds in the Panama Canal Zone. I was very sad to see her leave, but she had been shelling on Guam for nearly eight years. She was ready to hit new shelling areas. I have been here on Guam for three years, and I am following in the tradition of my friend. When some new beginner comes to my door and asks me where the shells are on Guam, I take them under my wing.

SHELLING ON GUAM

CHERYL RICHARDSON

When I arrived in Guam, it was not as if I were a new sheller. I had started collecting shells in 1957 in Florida. Fortunately for me my parents enjoyed traveling and usually we ended up spending the summer in Florida.

Shelling in 1957 was not the fad or the "in" thing to do as it is now. That year there were only a few shell books available to use for identification. Anyway, we have come a long way since those days, baby! Back then shelling in Florida was easy; shells were abundant from Clearwater, Sarasota to Sanibel Island.

I had not shelled since 1959 when we moved to Guam in 1974. I had visions of finding Charonia tritonis in the eel grass and Strombus lentiginosus carpeting the sandy bottom. It was not quite that way. Guam is completely surrounded by a coral reef. Shelling on a coral reef is very different from shelling the sandy mud flats of Florida. I found that my tennis shoes were not adaquate protection when I twisted my foot and received a deep scratch on a coral rock. The shells have a much better hiding place and very camouflaged living quarters. I had to learn how to shell all over again.

I was awed by the great beauty of the reef. The beautiful tropical fish, stunning coral heads and blue sea stars radiated flourescent colors. The tidal pools were breathtaking. It was a fabulous sight to behold and is forever endeared in my memory. But where were the shells? Where were the Cypraea, the Murex, the cones which I expected to see everywhere. The bivalves I expected to find cast ashore as fresh dead. No shells anywhere, except for a few Vasum turbinellum and Drupa recinus. After a week of hunting and shelling on my own I had become disillusioned and discouraged. There were no textiles, virgos and strombs. What was I doing wrong? After we moved into our house, a neighbor told me of a shell collector who lived across the street and that she had shells all over her house which she had collected herself. Out of sheer desperation I got up enough nerve to knock on her door and ask what I was doing wrong. I remember how she gave me a compassionate laugh as I stood there telling my desparate story. She was very kind and decided she would help me out.

My first mistake was to try shelling alone. Secondly, it takes time to learn the secrets of the shells and where they hide. As in most areas the knowledge of these places is a guarded secret, and not easily obtained information. Also there was another fact to be learned -- the four ways of shelling: reef-walking, snorkeling, look box and scuba. Well, I was not about to take on scuba unless these three other methods failed me. I met another very dear friend, who not only explained the above to me, but offered to take me shelling that very night. At night! Oh dear! Is that the reason I haven't found any shells? She explained to me it was one of the many reasons. This sweet dear woman took me under her wing and lead across the reefs of Guam for two years.

That first night was a night I will never forget. I have never seen so much equipment for a project. She brought coleman light, two-foot long tongs and weird-looking boxes. These boxes were very large and had glass bottoms. She set everything up for me with a coleman light sitting inside the box with towels and a can for me to house my finds. Then we started out. We walked along a sandy rubble bottom in water about waist deep. I found cones, Lambis, Terebra, just exposed on top of the sand. I thought my mind "blew" away. It was like I thought it would be - but even better!

As the months went by I learned that different species have different habitats. That some species of shells can be found in the day and others are only found at night. Different areas on Guam are accessible only at certain times of the year when the tide is minus and the

Continued at bottom of column to left

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CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA CONVENTION - 1977

HERB YOUNG*

Date: July 20, 1977 Place Ramada Inn, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
Time: 1:50 The Occasion: The 6th Annual Convention of the Conchologists of America.

The opening session was gavelled to order by Convention Chairman Kirk Anders, of Ft. Lauderdale. 46 registrants were in attendance, pre-registration ably taken care of by Ms. Kathe Daniels, Gerrie Walklet, plus helpers, prior to the opening session - from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

After Mr. Anders welcomed those in attendance, he introduced the President of the C.O.A. for 1976-77, Sally Bennett. The President gave a brief synopsis of the C.O.A. during her tenure and reported that membership had increased over 100% from the previous year's convention. As of mid-year 1977, membership was 280.

She introduced to the convention the officers of the C.O.A. for the 1976-77 year and expressed her appreciation for the great work they had performed for her and for the C.O.A.

Sally then presented to the members, Mr. Mike Cahill, President of the Broward County Shell Club of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Mr. Cahill, also of the Broward County Commissioners Offices, welcomed those in attendance and all members of the C.O.A. on behalf of the local shell club. He also read a letter from Mr. Kenneth Jenne, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Broward County, Florida welcoming the Conchologists of America's members to Ft. Lauderdale and Broward County. In his letter of welcome, Mr. Jenne noted residents in South Florida are proud of their marine resources, which contribute substantially to the recreation, food production and tourist industry. He welcomed a group, such as the C.O.A., who devotes much time to the study of the marine ecosystem and to conservation, and hoped we would have an enjoyable convention in Broward County.

Who do members of the C. of A. always attend all meetings at the scheduled time? For the answer to this, the President introduced Mr. Wayne Stevens of Portland, Oregon.

In addition to his duties as Chairman of Constitution and By-Laws Revision for the C.O.A., Mr. Stevens spent innumerable hours contacting and corresponding with United States publishers whose publications specialize in, or include, the fields of Conchology, Malacology and subjects related to the sea.

Through his efforts and the generosity of those publishers who responded, over seventy current publications valued at more than $800.00 were donated to the C.O.A. as door prizes. A listing of these publishers and their donated publications was made available to the members, who, if they were not the lucky recipients of a door prize(s), could order those publications applicable to their field of endeavor, and to those members who received a door prize(s), a note of thanks and appreciation to the particular publisher of the book(s) received.

Mr. Stevens explained to the members their presence was a requirement at the time of a drawing to receive a door prize, their convention registration number being randomly selected by a member present. The drawing times to be announced prior to each day's meeting.

The first speaker on the opening day's program was introduced by the President. Born on the island of Cyprus, a shoe-maker by trade, a shell auctioneer for 19 years in New York and, by avocation, a most knowledgeable personage of the Marginella Family - Mr. Nick Katsaras, of New Jersey.

Mr. Katsaras supplemented his presentation of the Marginella Family with outstanding colored slides, illustrations of the rare, not-so-rare, the common and uncommon varieties of the Marginella. He spoke of the various forms, relative physical sizes and the locale within the environment various species may be found.

Nick consluded his presentation with a fine series of slides illustrating a growth series of the slit shells, Pleurotomaria.

An inkling of what was to be throughout the convention, when the President introduced the next speaker, she noting the scheduled time was 40 minutes past; Why attempt to keep to a time table when the program had such outstanding speakers, their vivid presentations, outstanding in their field of study and above all, the intense interest of the C.O.A. members present in the subject matter wouldn't let the speakers quit until they fully exploited their informative programs.

So, forty minutes later than his scheduled time to speak, the President introduced Dr. Joel Greene, of San Francisco, his topic "Variations on a Theme" or as his presentation progressed, aberrations of the form of the various species of Mollusca, coloration and pattern from the norm, etc. all illustrated with slides. A few of the more aberrant forms of Cypraea tigris illustrated via color slides ranged from albinistic through normal coloration to black. Shapes illustrated varied from the norm, to the extreme elongated, squashiness to grotesquely globular form, all the result of Mother Nature's attempt to sustain life over any obstacle encountered in their environment.

Continued on page 2

*Seattle, Washington (C.O.A. Historian)

Continued from Page 1

His next series of slides were of the Volutes; also illustrating variations from the norm: shapes in the form of coke bottles, dextral versus sinistral, spine malformation and displacements. A continuation of spine malformation, placement on body of shell was presented by the series of pictures of the Murex family. But for this malformation of spine variation, the ultimate would have to be his collection of the Strombus family, consisting of Lambis, e.g., L. scorpio with 13 digitations, L. chiraga also with extra digits, L. crocata with the dorsal side a rare solid blue color. On the Strombus genera, illustrations presented various color forms and maculations and perhaps the most outstanding - a Tibia fusus with two "tails"! His "Variations On A Theme" continued with slides illustrating aberrations of the Harpa, Drupa, Terebra, Mitra, Eptionium, Pecten and Latiaxis.

Joel concluded his presentation with a description and slide illustration of a new species of the genus Lambis, the Lambis ~~wheel-wrighti~~*, discovered by him at Tawitawi, Sulu, Philippines. A complete write up of this new species will be forthcoming in The Veliger.

*name deleted since species not officialy described at time

The last slide presented brought out the "oohs" and "aahs" of the members present, a picture of a perfect Cypraea guttata, a Cypraea valentia and a Conus gloriamaris - 150.5mm in length!

The concluding speaker for the first day was then introduced by the President, Sally Bennett, Mr. William E. (Bill) Old, Jr., of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. His topic, "World Wide Conidae". Mr. Old opened his presentation with a preview of the history of the Family Conidae, giving examples of the problems facing the early taxonomists, i.e., lack of communications and the time element involved in recognized publications, a known depository for named specimens and then the great problem of travel to personally compare an unknown species with one of probable characteristics. One example given - one cone had over one hundred species names!

Via slides he showed how the taxonomists of today work with the miniature/immature specimens, study of the juvenile specimens, complete growth series, can accurately place a questionable specimen in its correct taxonomic position within the genus. Continuing with pictorial illustrations, he showed specimens of various color with possible food intake, the feeding characteristics versus pattern identification. Also, the differences in pattern and/or color from the juvenile form to the adult stage. The pigment changes from the juvenile to adult forms. Examples were also shown of one very wellknown cone, how it varied in coloration, shape and size from its environment and the area where commonly found. This particular cone is known by over 25 different species names! Yet, it is one and the same. To conclude his all too short presentation, he gave a history of the Conus gloriamaris, noting this year is the two hundredth anniversary of its naming.

The first day's program concluded with Mr. Wayne Stevens conducting another of the book door-prize drawings. In closing the day, our President noted 57 members present, having arrived from the four corners of the continental United States and areas between. All members were then invited to room 1005 for a Welcoming Cocktail Party hosted by the Broward Shell Club. As throughout the Convention, the Broward Shell Club did an outstanding job and all present could only say, Well Done! No fellow fossikers, it isn't the quantity required, nor the vessel size, but the liquid components dictate that is shall be a plastic garbage container! If only the formula could have been remembered.

The second day of the '77 C.O.A. Convention convened at the scheduled time, much to the chagrin of a few late risers, for, true to his word, our book chairman conducted another book drawing at the previously announced time of ten a.m.. The President introduced the first speaker for the day's program, Mr. Kirk Anders of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, his subject: "Costa Rica - Three Worlds of Collecting."

Mr. Anders illustrated his presentation with colored slides of the topography of Costa Rica, the flora and fauna that may be found, the various locations for the best shelling, the reefs, beaches and areas of best productivity for specimens desired and areas available for observation in their natural habitat. He showed the results of a typical collecting day, the variety of species available and "Wonder of Wonders" these pictures were all shown with the gastropod in its normal position of life, i.e. their anterior (head) at the top of the screen, posterior (apex) at the bottom. (Or was it by accident the slides were in the projector up-side-down!)

After coffee break and another door prize given away (all were present when their numbers were called this time), the program chairman introduced Gerrie Walklet and her topic of "Australia's Great Barrier Reef". Ms. Walklet gave a brief resume of the trip to Australia, the sights on arrival, all well illustrated with slides. The trip of three weeks, in July of 1976, consisted of ten days dredging with Mr. Tom Nielsen. We thoroughly enjoyed her explanation of the problems involved in dredging, adversity of being aboard a craft in rough waters, especially sitting on the decks! The collecting and observation trip continued up the Queensland coast, with intermittent visits at Cairns, Oak Beach, spending time with their hosts Harry and Barbara Collins, thence to such famous collecting areas, and not so well-known areas, as Low Island, Four-Mile Beach, Green Island, Port Douglas, etc. After Gerrie showed, via slides, the specimens obtained on her Australian trip, all of the members present were contemplating how they could partake of such an adventure in the future. With the exception of the rough water and vessel decks!

Prior to the lunch break, the program chairman introduced Mrs. Mary Palmer, of Pompano Beach, Florida, and her part of the program, "Fossil and Present-Day Corals". Mary's contribution to the convention was an excellent display and explanation of the coral surrounding Florida and that found in the Florida fossil beds. Within the three cases of outstanding specimens displayed, were the comparisons of the fossilized to present-time coral. The locale of the specimens, the era and the formations where they were obtained were all included.

After a brief lunch and another door prize drawing, all members present again, the program chairman introduced Ruth Chester, her subject: "The Murex". Her very informative talk, along with specimens to illustrate the salient features, was of the largest genus of the Murex family: the Chicoreus. Briefly, she explained the morphology of the spines, the body formation, terminology, comparative analysis of the species worlwide and locale of the various species of the genus. The only problem with the program was that it was all too brief. Perhaps next year a continuation of the same subject, Ruth?

From 1:55 until 3:15, the next speaker had a captive audience, for where else could a conchologist be and: visit all of the famous world museums, see a major portion of the holotypes of famous mollusk species, obtain an in-depth history of the world famous concholigists of the past 300 to 400 years (their lives, aspirations) and view some of the outstanding private collections, past and present - all via high quality color slides. Mr. William Old began his program with a pictorial presentation of the rare shells in the American Museum of Natural History. If wishes could be granted, which one would you have picked? Continuation of "Jewels of the Seas" provided viewers a once-in-a-lifetime view of type specimens in various Academys, Universities, Museums, etc. in the United States and overseas.

Mr. Old also showed photos of world famous conchologists, the museums of interest to conchologists (the British Museum of Natural History, museums in Frankfort and Berlin, in Switzerland, Denmark, etc.) and interspersed, a synopsis of the lives and works of the famous conchologists of the past three or four hundred years, many who worked in the museums shown.

A brief coffee break, and seven more members became happy recipients of book door prizes. And then on with the program.

"Sydney Cyphoma" was the topic of the "Cyphoma Man" Richard Sedlak. Mr. Sedlak's excellent contribution consisted of his observations, descriptions and findings of Cyphoma sedlaki Cate, 1976 a new species found in the central area of the Florida Keys. He showed and explained the morphological differences between this and other related Cyphoma species, but perhaps of more interest were his observations of the animal in a home aquarium. The mantle of the animal changed pattern from random spots to solid lines, then to broken lines and the line dimensions changed; at times a combination of spots and stripes would occur. For complete description of the shell and further information, Mr. Sedlak informed members they could read the October 1, 1976 edition of The Veliger.

The final speaker of the day was our Program Chairman Kirk Anders and his topic "A Perfect Beginning". Mr. Anders opened his program by stating that the "genesis" of the Kirk Ander's Travel & Shell Touring Agency was his first visit to the island of Cozumel, Mexico. At the time of the visit, Cozumel was excellent for beginning collectors, both on the beaches and reefs. A haven for the snorkeler and the drift lines always had something exciting to be found. However, as he further explained, it may not be waht it used to be, due to the increase in commercialization and tourist activities, this of course, bringing in more people and the resultant degradation of the beaches via pollutants, etc. He showed, via color slides, some of the outstanding flora and fauna of the Cozumel area.

At the conclusion of his presentation Mr. Anders recessed the convention for the day and reminded members present of the activities for the rest of the evening, which for those who attended was one of the outstanding events of the convention. The visit to the Mai Kai restaurant establishment in Ft. Lauderdale provided an outstanding evening of excellent entertainment, food and beverages, enjoyed by all. One highlight was an extemporaneous hula performed, with one of the entertainers, by a C.O.A. member from California who shall remain nameless, but a job well done, B.B.!

Mr. Anders invited members to his home for an open house and to see the locale of Shells of the Seas, Inc. Needless to say, those who attended left with a goodly number of "goodies" in the form of specimen shells, and a lighter wallet!

The third day of the C.O.A. Convention was programmed to alleviate "setitus", or so it seemed, for the program committee had field trips to the SeaQuarium and Planet Ocean. Other than one little black cloud in a perfect Floridian blue sky, twenty-two members thoroughly enjoyed their visitation to the SeaQuarium, and to the Planet Ocean, home of Sea Frontiers and Sea Secrets publications. The little black cloud, oh yes, that was the one immediately over bus number 498, for wouldn't you know it, the leader's "nemesis" struck again, in the form of a tire blow-out! After waiting 42 minutes on a non-functioning-air-conditioning-system bus, under the bright Florida sunshine, on Freeway at NW 5th and U.S. 95, our subsittute bus arrived. Lo and Behold - a Sun Lines Special from Phoenix, Arizona. Quick trip!! But as usual with a group of shell collectors, the unusual always happening, the time was well spent with all the telling each other's collecting problems, their finds, and hopes of future trips!! By Bus yet!!

Arriving back at the Ramada Inn, Convention headquarters, the trip members quickly joined the rest of the C.O.A. for the Annual Banquet. Held in the beautiful Phoenix Room atop the Inn, we enjoyed a beautiful sunset, party favors by the Broward Shell Club and dinner. Highlight of the evening was a preview of all the beautiful specimens to be auctioned within the hour. Specimen shells donated by attending members and by well-known dealers throughout the U.S. and overseas, quickly had members desirous to have the auction underway. Under the able direction of auctioneer Mr. Gary Magnotte, who by the way is author of "Shelling and Beachcombing in Florida and the Caribbean", helped out by Mr. Mike Cahill and Mr. Kirk Anders, the auction proceeded. The quality of those specimens up for auction and the expertise of the auctioneer quickly consumed the evening to the amount of $1,384.00!! "Well done to all those involved with the auction", were the President's closing words as she brought to a close the activities of the third day of C.O.A. '77.

The final day of programmed activity started exactly on schedule, with Mr. Wayne Stevens giving out more books, as members attending were chosen by drawing their registration number. Mr. Kirk Anders then gave a pictorial slide presentation and talk on "Bonaire Collecting". His brief recitation included shelling and results thereof on the island of Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, the Flamingo bird sanctuary, open market and shopping areas and the basic industry of the island, the open salt curing and processing.

Our President, Sally Bennett, then presented a slide program on a visitation to the Sea of Cortez, Mexico mainland side, "Under Rocks at Low Tide". She also gave helpful hints on dredging, methods of using automobile inner tubes for easy lifting loaded dredges for examination of contents and some excellent photos of native ironwood carvings.

Mr. Nick Jones then requested the C.O.A. members for their help and cooperation in his study of miniature Cypraea. He specifically wants information on Cypraea species of a size smaller than listed in Burgess's "The Living Cowries", their location and listed size.

Ms. Peggy Chapman, of Florida, using vivid slides and illustrations, gave an excellent presentation of "Dredging Off Ft. Lauderdale, Florida". The trials, tribulations and problems involved in dredge sizes, matching the boat size to the size of the dredge; how common tractor parts, lawnmowers stripped for parts, spare automobile parts, were all utilized in various configurations for dredging operations. The problems of sinking (!) the dredge and making it stay where you want it, were all ably explained. She showed species obtained only by dredging in 60 fms., she is interested primarily in those species of 3 to 5 mm size. As she explained, the system isn't perfect, but the best method and system in continued experimentation.

After a brief lunch, and another book door prize drawing, the program continued with Ray Majors giving a talk on "Night Diving off Ft. Lauderdale, Florida", especially between the second and third reefs from the shoreline and examination of the areas for marine specimens at and adjacent to the Ft. Lauderdale sewer outfalls!

The President of the Broward Shell Club, Mr. Mike Cahill, contributed to the excellent program material with "Pectens of the World with Caribbean Emphasis". Besides excellent slides, Mr. Cahill had display cases of worldwide Pecten for members to examine. He is in the process of a compilation of the known species of Pecten, some 200 to 350 species - 45 known in the Florida area. He would be very grateful for any material and/or photographs of this Family, his address is 1509 NE 5th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33304.

After a coffee/tea break, the program chairman, along with a thunder and lightning storm, introduced the next speaker and topic "Caribbean Cones" with Mr. William Old. This highly informative program on the "New World" cones was a comparative analysis of the Panamic and Eastern Pacific species versus those of the Western Atlantic. No attempt will be made here to present all the information given. As usual Mr. Old kept all rapt with his expertise on the subject. A few highlights were the comparisons of subtidal and benthic Conus species of the Eastern Pacific versus Western Atlantic, in polymorphic and polychrome form. The analogy of various cone species, geographical distribution covering some 200,000 square miles and the paucity of work in this particular area, especially in the Panamic with only 8 newly named species in the past 35 years. Eastern Pacific area now has 10 new taxon and the Western Atlantic 40 newly named species in the same time period. His explanation of how taxonomists differentiate between some of the more confusing species was very enlightening, especially on juvenile forms. Again, all explanations were interspersed with beautiful color slides.

Continued on the next page 4

The final speaker on the program was, again, Mr. Kirk Anders, who gave a brief synopsis of "West African Collecting". The trip, mainly in Senegal, and collecting within this area, produced outstanding varieties of Conus and Marginella species from the reefs, rocks, etc. As with all of Mr. Ander's program presentations, he showed slides of the flora and fauna of the countries visited. Highlights of various establishments and entertainment forms, all indigenous to the area vitied, were included.

As all good things come to a close, so did the program presentations for the 1977 C.O.A. Convention, at 4:17 p.m. with the final door prize drawing conducted by Mr. Stevens.

A fitting climax to the convention was a tour set up by the convention chairman on the Ft. Lauderdale boat "Jungle Queen". A trip well worth the taking. A cruise down the waterways of the Ft. Lauderdale area, viewing the palatial homes, beautiful yachts of every size, shape and description. The piece de resistance was the evening dinner served at the turn-about point of the trip, where members enjoyed excellent food, all they could eat, an old-time vaudeville also precluded the trip back. Who, but a conchologist (?) would suggest during a sing-along going back, that a happy birthday be sung to the 200th anniversary of Gloria Maris?

The business meeting was held at 10 a.m. next morning. See the minutes of that meeting elsewhere in this issue.

Your Associate Editor would like to take this opportunity to thank each and all for the congeniality of the personnel contacted in the Broward Shell Club, those C.O.A. members who helped out so much and to those who made the 6th Annual Convention of the C.O.A. such a success.

Hopefully, I've not been remiss in inadvertently deleting any material relevant to a specific program and/or speaker, for there were a few times I was absent from the program in progress taking care of a "Bimini Burn"! It may look peculiar to the natives of your sunshine area, but the next time this person, so susceptible to sunburn, has the pleasure of exploring your beautiful waters and beaches, and snorkeling in the water with brilliant skies above, he is going to be wearing at least the bottom half of his scuba suit used in the Pacific Northwest!!

To fully appreciate the material presented and the expertise of its presentation, I for one can only say, join the C.O.A. and attend the conventions in person. CU in '78!

Herb Young photo

You say the slide projector doesn't work? Well, we'll give the program anyway! (Actually, looking at transparant proofs of James White's new book at the C.O.A. '76 Convention in Portland.)

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

The following additional members should be added to the C.O.A. roster. Tell your shelling friends about C.O.A. and get them to join.

Tammy Bauder; 1105 Loxley Lane; Allentown, PA. 18103
Sue Bethel; 2710 NE 14th St., 1A; Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33304
Burry's Shell Museum; 1213 S. Ocean Blvd.; Pompano Beach, FL. 33062
Michael Cahill; 1509 NE 5th Ave.; Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33304
Ruth & Earl Chesler; 7401 SW 7th St.; Plantation, FL. 33317
Vincent Cusmano; 309 Court St.; Brooklyn, N.Y. 11231
Phyllis J. Diegel; 1611 N. Congress Ave.; West Palm Beach, FL. 33409
George G. Gallagher; 18 Swarthmore Ave.; Stratford, N.J. 08084
Eleanor Geves; 3106 NW 3rd Ave., #3; Pompano Beach, FL. 33064
Pat Glickstein; 504 Greenway; North Palm Beach, FL. 33403
Robert Katz; 136 Hicks St.; Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201
Susan Gray; 3943 Cornell Way; Eugene, Oregon 97405
Herbert R. Koller; 2700 Virginia Ave. NW; Washington, D.C. 20037
Long Island Shell Club; c/o Marty Lerner; 64 Thompson Ave.; Oceanside, N.Y. 11572
R. D. McCurdy; Box 46; Broadus, Montana 59317
Mary Beth Maier; 4197 Brookhollow Dr.; Abilene, Texas 79605
Mrs. Constance A. Marafino; 11 Richard St.; Barrington, R.I. 02806
Carole Marshall; 932 Cochran Dr.; Lake Worth, FL. 33461
Vivian Mestey; Ave. San Patricio #802; Las Lomas, Puerto Rico 00921
Walter E. Murray; 102 Miner St.; Hudson, PA. 18705
John Navratil; P.O. Box 194; Sedalia, Colorado 80135
Miss Noel Phillips; P.O. Box 388; Waitsfield, Vermont 05673
Joseph Powers, Sr.; 714 Sheffield Dr.; Springfield, OH. 45506
Mary Russell; Box 5181; Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33310
John D. Shearer; 1921½ Iris St.; Lakewood, Colorado 80215
Edwin W. and Renate Wittig Skinner, Sr.; c/o Carolina Leaf Tobacco Co.; P.O. Box 137; Greenville, N.C. 27834
Elizabeth Snyder; 1531 SW 67th Ave.; Pompano Beach, FL. 33068
Sandy Gordon Stiebel; 550 Rambler Lane; Highland Park, IL. 60035
Margaret Teskey; P.O. Box 273; Big Pine Key, FL. 33043
Louise Van Scoyoc; 2640 E. Coast Hwy.; Corona del Mar, CA. 92625
George Weitlauf; c/o Ciba-Geigy; P.O. Box 5513; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Phyllis Welling; 2608 NW 5th Ave.; Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33311

ADDRESS CHANGE
Carl Withrow; 6720 35th Terr. N.; St. Petersburg, FL. 33710

NAME CHANGE
Roseltha Stevens, from Roseltha Pelk; address remains same

HEY YOU!

Did you pick up your group photograph at the C.O.A. Convention in Ft. Lauderdale? If you paid for a photograph and didn't pick it up, please mail 50c to Kirk Anders (to cover postage & envelope) and he'll mail you your copy. P.O. Box 1418; Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33302.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Another small corner left as the time draws near to take the Bulletin to the printer. Just enough space to say thanks to those who have contributed to making this issue possible and to ask the rest of you to send in your articles. As temporary editor it really helps to have your article here for the next issue in December. Send your material to C.O.A. Bulletin, c/o Tom Rice; P.O. Box 219; Port Gamble, Washington 98364.

Hope we'll see all of you at C.O.A. '78 on Long Island, New York.

BRONZED COMBAT BOOTS

CHERYL RICHARDSON

Shelling on the island of Guam, in the Mariana Islands, requires a special type of footware. Tennis shoes just don't make it! My husband looked at me somewhat askance when I asked him if he would purchase a pair of combat boots for me. When I took him out shelling for the first time, it did not take him long to appreciate the advantage of combat boots over tennis shoes. The rough Staghorn Coral, the possibility of Stone and Turkey Fish and the black long-spined Sea Urchins, were enough to convince him that I definitely needed a pair of combat boots. The next day he brought home my most treasured gift.

I put the boots on and found them to be the most comfortable footwear I have ever worn. They make walking the reef almost as easy as walking on a three-inch carpet. Not only that, but the boots brought me good luck, if one can believe that. I had not been too successful in finding Cypraea. The first night I wore my "magic boots", I found seven different species of cowries! They were C. helvola, C. maculifera, C. erosa, C. carneola, C. vitellus, C. poraria and C. caput-serpentis. This experience made me realize how much I love my boots, and I never wanted to take them off. However, my husband persuaded me that I would be more comfortable in bed if I removed them. At the risk of endangering a marriage, I regretfully agreed to remove them at bedtime.

These boots took me across the various reefs of Guam faithfully for two years. I really never had any particular crisis which supported my logic for wearing my "magic boots". Then it happened. I was shelling at night, near the shore, in approximately four feet of water. I was about five feet away from my shelling partner. I felt something tightly grab the bottom of my left foot. I looked down, and there was this large fish attached to me. My instant reaction was to wipe it off in exactly the same manner one does when they step into a fresh cow-pie. This I did, for what seemed to be an eternity at the time -- probably all of which lasted sixty seconds. Strange as it may seem to most who know me, I did not let our a yell or scream. I guess I was too busy trying to wipe this thing off my foot. Finally it released me. I caught my breath and yelled to Barb, "I think I was attacked by a shark." She agreed, because it had just hit her above her boot and she was very sore. She had seen it clearly and said it was a baby White Tip Shark. I really did not see it closely when it was attached to my foot as I was not about to stand still and wait around for someone to take a picture. I was busy scraping my foot against the coral rock, hoping to force the shark to release its grip. This stirred up the muddy bottom, making visibility impossible. Afterwards, we examined the boot and saw the teeth marks and hole left by the two-foot shark. It was at this point that I freaked out!!

There are going to be some of you who read this and doubt the sanity of two women. But to reassure you, the woman I was with had excellent credentials. She is assigned each year to go into Scuba Cut, where the sharks take up permanent residence, to give the all clear sight for the Base Commander to open the beached and diving areas to the divers. Furthermore, I have seen her underwater photographs of different species of sharks which she has encountered. These are not the babies, but the "biggies"! All I know is that I have always had deep respect for this very brave woman. No way am I going to be around when there is a shark nearby. Do you want to see someone walk on water? That would be me.

Anyway, after the story had spread around the island my boots became a popular item everyone wanted to see. Afterwards the realization hit that the shark had finally let go due to the steel plate in the sole. After his computer-brain decided he wasn't going to get through he released his hold. My magin boots could not be worn any more. So they are presently bronzed, sitting next to my Golden Cowry. Now that I think about it, maybe I should have them gold-plated!

CORAL REEFS OFF FLORIDA

MARY PALMER

Standing on the beach at Pompano, one can cee a line of breakwaves one-half mile offshore, as far north and south as the eye can see. Those waves cover a beachrock ridge which was formerly a shoreline during a period of sea level fluctuation dating back to 100,000 to 150,000 years ago. A shallow, 10-foot, natural breakwater is formed by the outermost ridge which acts like a barrier reef. East of the ridge are three coral reefs with troughs between the 2nd and 3rd, filled with sand. Scattered colonies of living corals are found on all three, but during storms these corals suffer from the sand being swept over them. Beach erosion is a problem in Florida and every few years, when the big commercial dredges attach their pipes, shellers come rushing out of the woodwork. The rewards have been excellent from sand and rock pumped ashore through the pipes. Working between two reefs and penetrating to a depth of 20 feet below the ocean floor, 507 species of shells and 35 species of dead coral were collected and identified in 1970.

In the Pompano Beach / Fort Lauderdale area, the reefs are described as barrier reefs. By definition, a barrier reef rises from the water forming a massive wall and is separated from shore by a deep channel. The previously mentioned ridges are composed of beach sand cemented by calcite into stratified rock and date back to the Anastasia Formation, a Sangamon coquina shell sandstone.

During the Pleistocene Ice Age, sea level was lowered by glacial advancement as much as 350-400 feet. This left reefs exposed to die. Over long periods of time these platforms suffered weathering from rain and wind, with periodic floodings and exposures. Reefs which grew during all these changes formed rock 100 feet thick, producing the base for coral reefs off the Florida Keys. Part of these reefs still remain exposed and form the line of keys from Miami to Key West.

A coral reef is not only composed of coral, but is a living community of calcareous algae, mollusca, worms and bryozoa, all playing an important role in reef-building. The corals classified as reef-builders are of the Order Scleractinia and possess a symbiotic algae called Zooxanthellae. This algae requires light for growth and corals are limited to shallow, warm, tropical seas. Strong sunlight and a temperature range between 61 and 97 degrees F. is necessary for survival. In the Florida Keys, Aeropora palma (Elk Horn) is the most common coral.

Both Pompano Beach and Ft. Lauderdale, being literally a network of canals, provide the biggest source of pollution to the reefs; chiefly by draining into the rivers which empty their muddy sediment and brackish water through Port Everglades and Hillsboro Inlet.

As cold water is also a killer to reefs, each winter "cold snap" adds more hazard. "Silting" in the Florida Keys slowly eradicates colonies by suffocation with a fine blanket of sand. Drainage of beackish water from the Everglades adds to its destruction.

Corals can not grow on the shallow muddy bottoms on the west coast of Florida, but divers have found a coral reef growth in depths of 50-150 feet off the Tarpon Springs area.

The fact that corals are obtained from fossil sites indicates that coral colonies flourished in shallow warm seas that covered Southern Florida millions of years ago. Thirty-four species of fossil coral have been identified.

All Florida coral is protected by law, with a stiff penalty ($500) and the days of vandalism are ending. At last, with partial protection from man, the reefs have a chance to live and grow in all their beauty. There are now 49 species thriving off the area.

Continued from page 8

Charles E. Tuttle Co., continued
Beneath New Zealand Seas by Wade Doak
Fish and Fish Dishes of Laos by Alan Davidson
Florida Marine Shells by C.N. & N.R. Vilas
A Guide to Shell Collecting in the Kwajalein Atoll by Brost & Coale
The Handbook of Australian Sea Birds by Vincent & Warham
Marine Fishes of New Zealand by Heath and Moreland
New Zealand Seashells in Colour by Penniket & Moon
Pacific Sea Shells by Spencer Wilkie Tinker
Seashore Life in New Zealand by Heath and Dell
Sea Shell Parade by A. Gordon Melvin
Sea Shells of Sri Lanka by P. Kirtisinge
Sea Shells of the World with values by A.G. Melvin
Sharks and Rays by Tinker and DuLuca
Shell Collector's Guide by Ruth Fair
Shells of New Guinea and Central Indo-Pacific by A. Hinton
The Shore Fishes of Hawaii by Jordan and Everman
Thinking Dolphins, Talking Whales by Frank Robson
The Wonder Book of Australian Animals by A.W. Weed
" Pacific Marine Life by DeLucca and MacIntyre

Viking Press; 625 Madison Ave.; New York, N.Y. 10022
Shells in Colour by R. Tucker Abbott and K. Sandved
Shells by Andreas Feininger and Wm. K. Emerson

Western Publishing Co., Inc.; 850 3rd Ave.; New York, NY 10022
Sea Shells of North America by R. Tucker Abbott

Windward; P.O. Box 371005; Miami, Florida 33137
The Shell Book by Sandra D. Romashko
The Magic of Sea Shells by Fredlee

A special thanks from the C.O.A. to R. Wayne Stevens who contacted and persuaded these publishers to send such a bounty of titles for use as door prizes!

wave following back towards the deep, until finally the oncoming wave has no reserve left for increasing its magnitude and must topple. But it does not crash formlessly. At that moment when it is undermined by the increasing force of the undertow, the wave bends forward. In cross-section it momentarily forms the pattern of the logarithmic spiral with the crest curving in and under to place its apex at the center of gravity. This figure perpetually repeated by waves as they mount the beach - forms the identical curve that you you find in the cone, conch, cowrie and Nautilus shells.

The stirring quality of the design lies in its action. It is not inert. Even though the spiral of the shell is physically stationary, it has a point of origin, called a nucleus or protoconch, from which it springs, whirling toward an infinitely greater magnitude. You may say that architects, engineers and sculptors borrow from the snail and the scallop their dynamic curves to animate marble with fluidity and living beauty.

The curve of the shell is one of the simplest of all curved. Its proportions may be defined by a mathematical formula. Its discipline is rigid. The diameter of the coiled tube will grow in exact proportion to its length. A beautiful example of this is in the Chambered Nautilus. The control of its proportion is so perfect that each new coil is exactly 3 times the width of the coil preceding it.

Another type of shell may incrwase at a much slower rate - a Terebra may increase the diameter of its coil at the rate of one and one quarter times each turn. At the other extreme - the Abalone multiplies its coil diameter by ten, at each complete revolution. This is partly a purely mathematical proposition, because the Abalone curve widens so fast that the shell never gets around itself. It

Continued on page 8

THE STRUCTURE OF SEA SHELLS

LILLIAN HEMMIE

Shells are the external skeleton or exoskeleton of the soft-bodied animals. If they are removed the animal dies. The animal makes use of the dissolved calcium and other minerals in the water around them to make their shells. The fluid shell material is secreted by special glands in the mantle of the mollusk. As this fluid comes in contact with air or water it hardens into the shell, very much like concrete in forms, only much faster. The mollusk builds its shell as unconsciously as we build our own bony skeleton. It builds it little by little, depositing material at the edge of the mantle, therefore the shell pattern will correspond with the shape of the mantle. The mollusk starts building its shell when several weeks old - the baby whelk stays inside the tough egg case until they form a shell, which is the topmost spire of the shell. It gets lime from the food they eat and from soil or water in which they live. The mantle lays down a coating of carbonate of lime and magnesium for a framework of conchyollin or Keratin. The shell is made in three or more layers - the inner nacreous, the prismatic and the periostracum, the latter is produced by a different lobe of the mantle.

Sculpturing and ornamentation is produced at the edge of the mantle. Irregularities or injury at the edge of the mantle will show at the edge of the lip of the shell.

Successive stages of growth remain on the shell by distinct growth lines. The periostracum prevents marine growths and acid from damaging the shell. The animal is held in the shell by strong columellar muscles that originates on the axial columella, follows the right side of the body into the foot and attaches to the underside of the operculum, this muscle retracts the animal into the shell.

Color is influenced by light and temperature. Various patterns of pigmentation such as dots, circles, etc., are produced in the shell by migration of color-depositing cells along the edge of the mantle. If a pigment center on the edge of the mantle remains in the same position and continually colors the shell, a simple stripe will be formed, if the pigment cell wanders across the edge of the mantle an oblique stripe will be produced, etc. The food they eat also governs color.

The shell grows rapidly the first year or two, if food is abundant, and continues to grow during its lifetime, maybe one or 25 years. The Tridacna clam lives as long as a hundred years. Some mollusks develop spines to keep fish and other animals from swallowing them.

Juveniles are thin, with thin lips and often so different from the adults that they are often mistaken for different species. Some form an outer lip, a varix or axial ridge between periods of growth or rest. 90% of life is spent in the varix stage, as additional growth takes place in less that two days! At each stage in the growth of the shell - a varix or rib might be produced and the position and total number of these ribs are used in the identification. However, some snails dissolve the thickened outer lip before making an addition to the shell. The operculum has growth rings that correspond with those of the shell. When the animal dies the operculum disintegrates and is lost.

When the 3rd cell of the embryo is formed on the right side of the first two cells, the shell will be right-handed. If the 3rd cell is formed on the left side of the first two cells, the shell will be left-handed which is rare. In most shell animals the heart is on the left side of the body when it is resting on the foot, that side is more active, so it builds up the shell on the opposite side, the right-handed side.

Looking at a wave, as it advances into shallow water, it is pushed up, growing higher and steeper from the opposition of the spent

Continued at bottom of column to the left.

MINUTES OF C.O.A. 1977 BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the sixth convention of the Conchologists of America was called to order by the President, Sally Bennett, at 10:03 a.m. Sunday, July 24, 1977 at the Ramada Inn in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Minutes of the last business meeting held in Portland, Oregon in June 1976 were read and approved as was the treasurer's report. Marjorie Stevens, Vice-President and Membership Chairman, made her report showing the Conchologists of America at the end of the Virginia Beach convention with a membership of 101, at the end of the Portland convention with a membership of 146 and at the end of the Fort Lauderdale convention with a membership of 300.

Under new business the nominating committee appointed by the President and consiting of Herb Young, Mary Palmer and Bill Old, presented the following slate of officers:

President	Kathe Daniels; Apollo, Pennsylvania
Vice-President	Marjorie Stevens; Portland, Oregon
Secretary	Jennie Welcome; Douglas, Arizona
Treasurer	Gerry Walklet; Bellair Beach, Florida

Bill Old moved that the nominations be closed and George Buchinoff moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee It was seconded by Wilma Young, passed and was so carried out by the Secretary. The new officers were introduced.

Sally Bennett turned the meeting over to Wayne Stevens, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman. Copies of proposed revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws had been sent to every member for study in advance of the meeting. At this time additional copies were given to those in attendance. Wayne prefaced with this explanation: "C.O.A. over the past several years has shown remarkable growth. With growth has come new problems coupled with old interpretations of what were some of the purposes or intents of the original Constitution when drafted, adpoted and subsequently piecemeal amended. Due to the quantitative number of changes from the original Constitution no attempt was made to revise the original Constitution on an item-by-item basis. Your suggestions or constructive criticism are most welcome." His proposed revisions were as follows:

Article I, Name and Office - no change

Article II, Purpose
Sec. 1 line 3, change "mollosks" to "mollusks"; delete "The media of annual meetings" and substitute "research projects"; change "malocology" to "malacology".

Article III, Membership
Sec. 2 (Describing four classes of membership)
(a) in line 2 add "s" to 'publication".
(b) "21" be amended to read "18" years of age. Add "s" to "publication" in line 3.
(c) Add "s" to "publication" in line 2.

Article IV, Elected Officers
Sec. 1 Delete entirely and substitute the following: The Board shall consist of the newly elected President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and the immediate Past President. The Editor of the Bulletin shall also serve on the Board, but without a vote.

Article V, Appointive Officers - no change

Article VI, Succession in Office
Sec. 1 line 3, change "appointed" to "filled"

Article VII, Nomination of Officers - no change

Article VIII, Election
Sec. 1 line 1, following the word "vote" insert "of members in good standing".

Article IX, no change

Article X, Resolutions and Amendments - no change

Article XI, Changes in the Constitution
Sec. 1 line 2, following the word "those" insert the word "present and qualified to vote".
Sec. 2, add "Amendments may also be made by a 2/3 affirmative reply mail vote on any proposed amendment approved for publication by the Board. The Board shall have the right to establish a deadline date for voting tabulation."

Article XII, Changes in Bylaws - no change

Article XIII, Voting - No change

Wayne moved that we hereby repeal in its entirety the original Constitution of The Conchologists of America and by the same vote accept the new Constitution duly considered at this meeting. This was seconded by John Rathbun and was passed by more than a 2/3 vote of those present.

The Bylaws were next for consideration, especially Article I Sec. 2, regarding membership dues. Phil Schneider proposed a sliding scale of membership dues with the following, all on a yearly basis:

Individual Membership	3.00
Husband and wife Membership	5.00
Family membership, consisting of parent or parents at one address	7.00
One Parent and children	5.00
Two parents and children	7.00
Honorary membership	3.00

He moved its acceptance. This was seconded by Bill Olds and was voted down. Kirk Anders moved that family membership under Article I, Sec. 2, line 2 be changed from $7.00 to $5.00. This was seconded by Joel Greene and passed.

Wayne moved that the Bylaws except for Article I, Sec. 1 and 2 and Article II Sec. 1 inclusive should by a separate vote be duly accepted with the understanding that the Procedural Manual presently in preparation shall serve as a guideline only for the ensuing year and subject to consideration and possible adoption in Bylaws form at the 1978 annual business meeting. This was seconded by Kathe Daniels and passed.

Wayne Stevens further moved that the Board shall be empowered to seek and procure non-profit status for the C.O.A. This passed, after being seconded by Kathe Daniels. Wayne said that Bernard Pipher, Tekamah, Nebraska, had been approached to look into this. The meeting was returned to Sally Bennett.

A convention invitation was received from Martin Lerner of the Long Island Shell Club in Long Island, New York. Wayne Stevens moved and Veronica Parker Johns seconded the motion that the offer be accepted. Acceptance was unanimous. Martin Lerner is to serve as Convention Chairman. The time is to be specified later.

Kathe Daniels suggested that we keep an eye out in the newspapers for legislation in regard to conversation and write the proper person about it. It is too late to write in supporting the Endangered

Species Act.

Sally Bennett announced that Herb Young, Seattle, Washington, had agreed to serve as Historian for the coming year and that Martin Lerner of the Long Island Shell Club will be functioning as Club News Editor for the Bulletin. Hopefully all club news publications will be sent to him for interesting articles to reprint in the Bulletin.

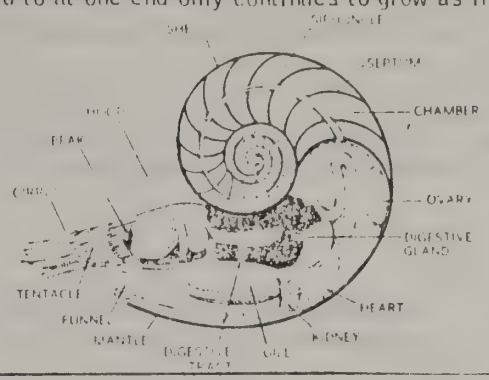
Kathe Daniels, newly elected President, took the chair for a few minutes to speak of her plans and hopes for the coming year.

Sally Bennett moved that a vote of thanks be given Kirk Anders, 1977 Convention Chairman and Mike Cahill and the Broward Shell Club for the tremendous effort put forth by many in making the present convention such an outstanding success. She also expressed he gratitude to the outgoing officers of C.O.A. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Faye and John Rathbun, Secretary

Continued from page 6

is merely a short segment of the spiral. This type of spiral has a remarkable property. It can increase by growing at one end only, and always retain without change the form of the entire figure. The animal builds a house which each increment is forever dead, rigid material. Yet this structure, added to at one end only continues to grow as if by magic appearing to grow all over. Thus the tens of thousands of shell forms are rooted in the simplicity of a curve with a simple formula governing its proportions.



CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA SAY THANK YOU!!

The Conchologists of America wishes to acknowledge each of the publishers, listed below, and to express our appreciation for the books listed which they have contributed as door prizes at the C.O.A. Ft. Lauderdale 1977 Convention.

Harry N. Abrams, Inc.; 110 E. 59th; New York, N.Y. 10010
The Shell, Five Hundred Million Years of Inspired Design by Hugh and Marguerite Stix and R. Tucker Abbott

American Malacologists; P.O. Box 4208; Greenville, DE.19807
The Best of the Nautilus, edited by R. Tucker Abbott
American Malacologists 1734-1975, R. Tucker Abbott and M. E. Young
American Malacologists, 1975 Supplement
Living Marine Mollusks, by C.M. Yonge and T.E. Thompson

Binford & Mort; 2536 SE 11th; Portland, Oregon 97202
Seashells of the Pacific Northwest by James White

Chas. T. Branford & Co.; 28 Union St.; Box 41; Newton Center, Massachusetts 02159
The Shell Book by Julia E. Rogers

Delaware Museum of Natural History; Department of Mollusks; Greenville, Delaware 19807
Index Nudibranchia, A Catalogue of the Literature, H.D. Russell
Indo-Pacific Mollusca, Vol. 3 #16, Harpidae
Land Mollusks of Belgian Congo and Supplement to same
Exotic Conchology by Swainson
The Living Volutes by Weaver and DuPont

Dodd, Mead & Co.; 79 Madison Ave.; New York, NY 10016
Wonders of the World of Shells, Sea, Land & Freshwater Morris K. Jacobson and Wm. K. Emerson

Dover Publications, Inc.; 180 Varick St.; New York, NY 10014
Shells from Cape Cod to Cape May by Jacobson & Emerson
Caribbean Seashells by Wanke and Abbott
Seashore Life Coloring Book by A. D'Attilio

Great Outdoors Publishing Co.; 4747 28th St. N.; St. Petersburg, Florida 33714
How to Clean Seashells by Bergeron
Let's Go Shelling by McKay
Handbook of Shells by Seikman
Shellcraft Instruction by Marjorie & Frank Pelose
Shellcraft Animals and Shellcraft Earrings, both by Patricia Pope

Hawthorne Books, Inc.; 260 Madison Ave.; New York, N.Y. 10016
The Spell of the Shell by Martha Keeling Hodgson

Houghton Mifflin Co.; 2 Park St.; Boston, Massachusetts 02107
A Field Guide to Pacific Coast Shells by Percy Morris

Alfred A. Knopf; 201 E. 50th St.; New York, N.Y. 10022
The American Museum of Natural History Guide to Shells: Land, Freshwater and Marine from Nova Scotia to Florida

Naturegraph Publications; 8339 W. Dry Creek Rd.; Healdsburg, CA. 95448
Gems of World's Oceans by A. Gordon Melvin

Of Sea and Shore Publications; P.O. Box 33; Port Gamble, WA. 98364
Starfish by Furlong & Pill
Edible? Incredible! by Furlong & Pill
Beach Animals by Robinson
What is a shell? by Tom Rice
Marine Shells of the Pacific Coast by Tom Rice
A Sheller's Directory of Clubs, Books, Periodicals & Dealers

Price Stern Publ., Inc.; 410 N. LaCienega Blvd.; Los Angeles, CA. 90048
The Shell Coloring Book by Heller

Sportsshelf and Soccer Assoc.; Box 634; New Rochelle, NY 10802
Australia Seashells by John Child

Stanford University Press; Stanford, California 94305
Marine Molluscan Genera of Western North America: An Illustrated Key by A. Myra Keen and Eugene Coan
Seashells of Tropical West America: Marine Mollusks from Baja California to Peru by A. Myra Keen and James McLean
Murex Shells of the World by George E. Radwin & A. D'Attilio

Sterling Publishing Co.; 419 Park Ave.S.; New York, NY 10016
Seashell Collector's Handbook and Identifier by Sonja Murray

Taplinger Pub., Inc.; 200 Park Ave. S.; New York, N.Y. 10003
Seashells of the West Indies by Michael Humfrey

Charles E. Tuttle Co.; 20 S. Main St.; Rutland, Vermont 05701
Australian Crustaceans in Colour by Healy and Yaldwyn
Australian Marine Fishes in Colour by Neville Coleman
Australian Seashores in Colour by Gillett and Yaldwyn
Australian Shells by B.R. Wilson and K. Gillett
Beneath Australian Seas by Walter Deas and Clarrie Lawler

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CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA CONSTITUTION

(As adopted in Convention July 24, 1977, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A.) (1)

ARTICLE I NAME AND OFFICE

Sec. 1 The name of the club shall be CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, a non-profit organization.

Sec. 2 The location of the principal office of this club shall be designated as the address of the treasurer during the incumbent's term of office.

Sec. 3 The calendar year of the club for the purposes of dues shall commence January 1 of each year.

Sec. 4 The fiscal year of the club for the term of elected officers shall commence immediately following their election at the regular annual meeting and continue through the ensuing period until the election of new officers at the following annual meeting and election of officers.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Sec. 1 The purpose of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA shall be to unite shell collectors and shell clubs for the purposes of promoting interest in the study and collection of mollusks through research projects, lectures and the support and promotion of publications that will widen the scope of research, study and conservation practices.

" The emphasis of the organization shall be on CONCHOLOGY rather than malacology.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 Membership in CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA shall be open to all individuals, families and clubs interested in the study and/or collecting and conservation of molluska.

Sec. 2 There shall be four classes of membership.

(a) Regular membership shall be a member subject to payment of annual dues who shall be entitled to receive club publications, notices, etc. and shall be entitled to full voting privileges.

(b) Family membership shall consist of husband and/or wife and members of their immediate family including children under 18 years of age. The "family" shall be entitled to receive one copy of club publications and notices but "family" shall be limited to the casting of two votes.

(c) Club membership - any club may join Conchologists of America and shall be entitled to receive a single copy of the club publications but the entity of the club shall not be entitled to vote.

(d) Honorary membership shall be entitled to receive club publication and notices but shall not be entitled to vote or the holding of elective office.

ARTICLE IV ELECTED OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The officers elected to serve for the ensuing fiscal year shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer. The immediate Past President shall also be designated as a voting member of the Board.

Sec. 2 The duties of the elective officers shall be designated in the By-Laws.

Sec. 3 The regular meeting of the Board shall be held at a time and place designated by the President.

ARTICLE V APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Sec. 1 Appointive officers of the club shall include but not be limited to Chairman of Publications, Chairman of Nominating Committee, Convention Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Parliamentarian. These officers shall be appointed by the President with the majority approval of the Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board but without vote in Board meetings.

ARTICLE VI SUCCESSION IN OFFICE

Sec. 1 Should a vacancy occur in any elective or appointive office other than the President, whose office shall immediately be filled by the Vice-President, whose office shall immediately be filled by the Vice-President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board to serve until the ensuing election of officers.

ARTICLE VII NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1 Not less than 90 days prior to the next regular meeting the President shall appoint a nominating committee with Chairman, of not less than 3 persons nor more than 5.

Sec. 2 This committee shall prepare and present to the next assembled business meeting a slate of officers, who have designated their willingness to serve.

Sec. 3 Additional nominations of members in attendance may be made from the floor.

Sec. 4 Additional nominations of members not in attendance at the annual meeting may be made from the floor, however, such nomination must be in writing signifying nominee's willingness to serve and signed by five members in good standing.

ARTICLE VIII ELECTION

Sec. 1 All officers shall be elected by a majority vote at the regular annual business meeting. Proxy votes shall not be honored.

ARTICLE IX MEETING

Sec. 1 The time and place of the next annual meeting may be voted on at the regular business meeting. Failing that the Board elect are authorized to establish the place and date.

ARTICLE X RESOLUTIONS & AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1 While motions to amend will be permitted from the floor, it is requested that proposed resolutions or amendments be submitted to the President in writing on the first day of the convention and such proposed resolutions or amendments shall be read by the President as an order of business on opening day.

ARTICLE XI CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION

Sec. 1 The Constitution of the Conchologists of America may be amended at any annualmeeting, by a two-thirds vote of those present qualified to vote and in attendance at the annual meeting.

Sec. 2 Amendments may also be made a two-thirds affirmative reply mail vote on any proposed amendment approved for publication by the Board. The Board shall have the right to establish a reply deadline date for voting tabulation.

ARTICLE XII CHANGES IN BY-LAWS

Sec. 1 The By-Laws of the Conchologists of America may be amended at the annual meeting, by a majority vote of those qualified to vote and in attendance at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE XIII VOTING

Sec. 1 In matters of the Club business, including elections, members in good standing shall be entitled to vote. Good standing shall be construed to mean that members dues for the calendar year shall be in the hands of the Treasurer or authorized officer, and duly recorded prior to casting a vote.

BY-LAWS

(2)

ARTICLE I DUES

Sec. 1 Dues payable January 1 of each calendar year.

Sec. 2 Regular membership $3.00 per annum
Family membership $5.00 per annum
Club membership $3.00 per annum
Honorary membership - no dues

ARTICLE II DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1 All former officers and committee chairmen shall forward all records pertinent to that office within 60 days of the election of their respective successor. Note: a committee is now working on a procedural manual which will include specifications as to duties of officers. This portion of forthcoming manual is by reference made a part of this constitution as presented at the Ft. Lauderdale meeting.

(1) Wayne Stevens moved that we hereby repeal in its entirety the original Constitution of the Conchologists of America and by the same vote accept the new Constitution duly considered at this meeting. This was seconded by John Rathbun and was passed by more than a 2/3 vote.

(2) A motion was made by Wayne Stevens as follows: "The By-Laws, except for Articles I and II Section 2 inclusive shall by a separate vote be duly accepted with the understanding that the procedural manual presently in preparation shall serve as the guide line only for the ensuing year and subject to consideration and possible adoption in By-Laws form at the 1978 annual business meeting." This was seconded by Kathe Daniels and passed.

PRESIDENT: KATHE DANIELS
Route 1, Box 265-A; Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613

VICE-PRESIDENT: MARJORIE STEVENS
1835 NE 16th Avenue; Portland, Oregon 97212

SECRETARY: JENNIE WELCOME
1504 San Antonio Drive; Douglas, Arizona 85607

TREASURER: GERRIE WALKLET
234 Howard Drive; Bellair Beach, Florida 33535

DUES: $3.00 individual; $5.00 family (receive 1 Bulletin)
Send check or money-order to Treasurer (address above)

Editor: TOM RICE; P.O. Box 219; Port Gamble, WA. 98364

Associate Editors:

LILLIAN HEMMIE; 700 St. Charles, #1411; Brownsville, Texas 78520

EDITH OETZELL; 518 S. Ardmore Ave.; Villa Park, Illinois 60181

MARY PALMER; 270 South Cypress, #208 Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

HERB YOUNG; P.O. Box 1931; Seattle, WA. 98111

ISSUES IN APRIL, AUGUST AND DECEMBER

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Many of those attending the C.O.A. 1977 Convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida pose for their photograph. Pete Bright photo.

TRADING SHELLS

CHERYL RICHARDSON *

Trading shells worldwide is probably the most desirable way to build one's private collection. There are several different methods of adding to one's collection. They are as follows: purchasing, self-collecting, inheriting and trading. For all intents and purposes I will try to keep to the subject of trading and will use my own personal experiences as my source of information.

Before one can begin to trade shells, there are a few factors to consider. First and foremost, one has to have available spare specimens. In order to fulfill this requirement one must be able to travel to the ocean frequently to collect shells. I'm not insensitive to the landlocked shell collector, since I was landlocked in Chicago for twenty-nine years of my life. How I ever maintained my interest in shell collecting from a chair is a bad memory. For the unfortunate shell collectors who are landlocked I suggest taking up weight lifting, needlepoint or stick with shell price lists while hovering intensely over shell books. Presently I have the great fortune to live by the ocean on a tropical island in the Pacific. This is the ideal situation for acquiring spares for trade by self-collecting. I will now explain how I have gone about exchanging shells.

I have never placed an ad in any shell publications because I didn't want to be swamped with twenty-five letters a day requesting Cypraea aurantium, C. guttata, Murex laqueatus, etc. These rare shells are limited to the lucky few who scuba dive twice a day seven days a week, 365 days out of the year. (Any sheller with this type of enthusiasm, energy and dedication deserves to pop up with a rare shell for trade now and then.)

I have only common to uncommon shells for trading. I read all the ads that are placed in the different shell publications; and I can usually tell by the way the ad has been worded, what the advertiser wants in trade. Those ads which avoid such words as guttata, bengalensis, onyx nymphae and gloriamaris, to mention a few, are usually safe ads to answer. When I write a letter to the person who has placed the ad, I always explain that I would like to trade for the common and uncommon shells from their area. In several cases the shells from my area may be the same species which come from their area. I ask if they would be interested in exchanging even those species which we both have for geographical variety. Also I offer to send a box of shells first for their approval. After they have viewed the shells I have sent, they may send me what they feel I want in trade. This method does not require the preparation of a shell trade list. This is a big time saver as my trade material frequently changes. I have also discovered that by sending my package of shells first, the person with whom I trade will understand what quality of shells I expect in return. This also gives the trader examples of what I mean by full data which I expect in return. I have always been very happy and pleased with all my trades. I have found that in addition to adding beautiful shells from around the world to my private collection, I have made many dear and wonderful friends. Many of these friends have been met in person as the years go by.

Many people have different procedures for trading. If these procedures work well for one then there is no need for change. Some of the other methods of trading are placing values on shells by using the same price catalogue or using an exchange list, where both parties select shells in advance. These methods eliminate the element of surprise which is so important to me. I always feel like a child on Christmas morning when I receive a shell parcel. The joy of opening the package and unwrapping each shell can only be excelled by the same joy of finding a new species oneself.

* Guam

There are a few general rules to follow to guarantee a satisfactory and successful trade; follow the guidelines and grading standards of H.S.N. (Hawaiian Shell News), always include the operculum and include at least two of each species when possible, and one with the periostracum left on in its natural state.

Trading shells is a very pleasureable part of our hobby. Recently I traded for a Murex sauli from Okinawa. Would you believe this shell earned "Shell fo the Show" in our shell fair on Guam! Maybe I didn't collect it myself, but I did trade self-collected shells for my prize.

New Members

Bunnie (Mrs. G.A.) Cook; 1120 Makaiwa St.; Honolulu, HI. 96816
William H. Rogers; P.O. Box 191; Mahe, Seychelles
(formerly RCA Comm; Ascension Island; P.O. Box 4308
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925)
Martha C. Elliott; 1113 Clyde Pl.; High Point, N.C. 27262
Mrs. David (Maxine) J. Rankin; Box 1664; Bay City, Texas 77414
LTC (Ret.) H.W. Schindler; 424 Riverside Dr.; Magothy Beach, Pasadena, Maryland 21122
Larry Kaufman; 249-06 34th Ave.; Little Neck, N.Y. 11363
Mrs. Garwin McNeilus; Rt. 1, Box 57; Dodge Center, Minn. 55927
Mrs. Wesley Austin; P.O. Box 634; Dodge Center, Minn. 55927
Mrs. Joe Barrow; Route 4; Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455
George W. Whitlow; 342 Seminole Dr. NE; Marietta, Georgia 30060
Walter C. Paine; Associate Curator; Montshire Museum of Science; Hanover, New Hampshire
Ms. Lucianne Blair; 1033 Rock Creek Dr.; Port Charlotte, Florida 33952

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
Rev. Byron W. Travis; 4324 NE 47th Ave.; Portland, OR. 97218

Exchanges Wanted

I have had the occasion to read about your Club of the Conchologists of America and let me congratulate you and the members. I know you distribute a newsletter to the members of the Club several times a year. I am a collector specializing in shells of the Mediterranean Sea and I would be very grateful if you could put an advertisement to your members concerning my proposal of an exchange of shells. from your seas with my Mediterranean shells. A similar advertisement has already be placed in newsletters of other Shell Clubs throughout the world and in general those members have been satisfied with their relations with me. I hope you will kindly examine this opportunity of exchange that I propose to you.

Yours Very Sincerely,
Vincenzo Grimaldi
Via Montasio, 24
00141 Roma, Italy

Phyllis Welling 2608 N.W. 5th Ave. Wilton Manors, Fla 33311	5	Marine, Freshwater Marine aquaria	Costa Rica, Bonaire, Haiti, Cozumel, Bahamas	no	
Loralynn Williams 29841 Knoll View Dr. Rancho Palos, California 90274		Marine, Fossils Living Marine Mollusca	-	yes	
Beatrice E. Winner 312 Southwind Dr. North Palm Beach, Florida 33408	10	Reproduction	West Indies	Florida	Australia
William R. Yates 6437 Charlotte Kansas City, Missouri 64131	4	Marine, Freshwater, Land	-	in future	

THE SMELL OF THE SHELLS

SALLY GRAY*

A trip last September through the Society Islands of French Polynesia has left me with many tales to tell and dreams to dream. I daydream of returning to the beauty of shell-populated reefs, sandbars with hidden surprises (Terebra and Conus galore!), and also the peaceful solitude of sailing between these islands in a sailboat which accomodated my every whim for shelling.

There are also humerous side storied such as when a Bora-Bora islander related to me that in Tahiti a national song had originated about the 2 Pan Am flights that crashed into the sea. All this being told the day before Air Polynesia landed on Bora-Bora breaking its nosegear on the runway which was also the day before I was to leave on the same plane. Then there's someone who always has to try and "get the goat" of the shell collector because they're thought of by the uninitiated as crazy. After a day spent out on a reef near Raiatea several of us were returning to the boat in the Zodiac, a motorized dinghy which is a luxury and indispensable for travelling to and from the shelling grounds. As we were all comparing our loot the Captain pulled out a large Triton shell that was at least 14" long. My jaw dropped and then I pulled myself together and ignored the shell, stating, "look at all my beautiful gem specimens, I have plenty". Everyone started laughing as the Triton was found years ago near Africa and the Captain had hidden it on the Zodiac before leaving for the reef. My good nature towards all the joking lead to everyone getting in on the act of shell collecting. I had the last laugh as the uniniatiated became the initiated and this leads to the point of my story which deals with the episodes all shellers have in common and have to cope with. THE SMELL OF THE SHELLS.

For the trip, Ted Cook Travel had provided what proved to be a lifesaver. My accomplice and I were given 12x12x5, plastic-lined over nylon, flight bags. They were initially used for camera equipment, but quickly turned into the fragile and smelly shell carriers. They are still hanging up outside "airing". These bags became famous among the hotels. Our porches were left alone and our suitcases, naturally filled with shells, were open on the beds breathing for air and was territory the maids feared. A portion of the trip was spent onboard a 58' sailboat of which I had a cabin everyone avoided and held their breath as they passed by. When staying at hotels or being taxied to another one we were receivers of tolerant smiles as the aroma wafted out behind us or filled the airspace inside the car. And to think this was only an indication of what was to come.

Flying home on Air New Zealand I did a rather unkind thing. The suitcases were safely smell-proof in the depths of the plane. However, how to endure an 8 hour flight with those awful-smelling flight bags. I put two of them underneath the seat in front of me. It just so happened that a baby with quite a few "dirty diapers" was also in that seat. I'm sure the baby was not that bad, but our shells were, so what a perfect answer for our "problem" should anyone comment.

U.S. CUSTOMS. This name by itself had me worried as every single time in the past I had had trouble with my shells and careless people breaking them as they looked for contraband. My luck was with me, I thought, as we were landing at the international side of the airport where the Customs people were nicer. Ha! Immediately upon disembarking and walking from outside into the Customs area we were surrounded by a special patrol of gnats which angrily buzzed around me and escorted my flight bad inside. It's a little embarrasing to be standing in line waiting to enter the U.S. and slapping your luggage, how dignified can you be?

Once inside I held my breath, literally and figuratively. I knew I'd had it when THE MAN pointed at me and said open that one. That one happened to be my largest suitcase, tied closed with a strong rope and also the smelliest one as it contained alcohol soaked shells which their containers had pointed their finger at me by spilling their contents in confession throughout the entire suitcase. As the suitcase yawned open approximately one inch wide, a powerful vapor rose up into the air and we all drew back in fear (known as the fear of gagging). THE MAN smiled and stated, "that's o.k., tie it up and move along, you too", he stated to my friend and accomplice who was happy at not having to open any bags. Well, his time would come.

Home, and walking towards the Eugene terminal from the plane. It was a beautiful, clear, crisp day. I happened to overhear a woman who was walking directly behind my accomplice and his flight bag. She was obviously new to the area by the comments she was making. "Sniff, sniff, phew, what a powerful smell. There must be a pulp mill in the area". I broke out laughing, the smell now being carried stoically in front of me. I tried to explain in short simple terms that, no there's no pulp mill in the area, but a shell collector's fragile loot. She didn't think it too funny and only attempted a weak smile and walked on. So much for those not dedicated.

The final smell was the easiest for me to deal with, but not so for guests in my home. My shells are now drying on cotton lined trays after their bath of alcohol or formaldehyde. The smell of the shell lingers on. Three cheers for those who are dedicated.

(P.S. we're really a group of mutants with a built-in clothespin noseguard!)

* Eugene, Oregon

From The Editor

Want to urge all of you to send me your stories of collecting trips, collecting anectdotes, etc. for the Bulletin. Without contributions from the members we'll be forced to have small editions of the newsletter. Either send your material to me, or to one of the Associate Editors listed on the cover of this issue.

We hope to have some details on our 1978 meeting in the next issue. The Long Island Shell Club is to be hosts and we know that a great time will be had by all who attend - those who have attended past C.O.A. meetings can attest that they are the most fun, most enlightening experiences.

A reminder to all of you to be certain you've renewed your membership for 1978 and think about a gift membership for that special shelling friend of yours too.

Enclosed with this issue is a continuation of our "Membership Interest Index". If you're not listed, please include the information with your renewal payment. Up-dated information will continue to be presented in upcoming issues of the Bulletin.

Our next issue will be out at the end of April, send your material for that issue soon. We can use photographs too!

TOM RICE

Temporary Editor

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN #13

April 30, 1978

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1978 C.O.A. CONVENTION - WESTBURY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 27 THRU OCTOBER 1

The 1978 Annual Convention of the Conchologists of America will be hosted by THE LONG ISLAND SHELL CLUB. Dates for the meeting are September 27 through October 1, 1978.

The Island Inn, Westbury (Long Island), New York will be the site of the meetings. Further information on making reservations, etc. will be sent all members shortly. With the new air fares it will be much less expensive to reach Long Island that in the past. So plan to attend!

The Convention will open Wednesday afternoon. That evening will feature a "Get Acquainted" cocktail party, hosted by the Long Island Shell Club.

The program continued Thursday, interspersed with shell book raffles, a COA tradition. On Friday we are planning a trip to the American Museum of Natural History to view the new Hall of Mollusks, plus other world famous exhibits. Friday evening is the famous COA Shell Auction.

The program continues Saturday morning. That afternoon is the annual business meeting. Saturday evening will be the C.O.A. Annual Banquet, with a speaker to be announced later.

Sunday is open so that members from out of the area can visit the sights of New York City. If enough are interested a field trip might be made to Orient Beach State Park on the eastern tip of the Island.

COME ONE - COME ALL - C.O.A. CONVENTIONS ARE A BALL!

NEW MAGAZINE

Congratulations to Kirk Anders, Past-President of the C.O.A. on the appearance of his new magazine: Shell Collector. A premier "mini issue" is on the way to you and we know you'll find it informative and useful. Trust you'll subscribe too.

GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP!

Why not give a C.O.A. membership to a shelling friend? Makes a nice, inexpensive gift and one that last a whole year. Three issues of this Bulletin and the chance to contact others of similar interest through use of our "Member's Interest Index".

THE RATHBUNS ON THE ROAD

The following article appeared originally in The Oregon Shell News, publication of the Oregon Society of Conchologists and is reprinted here with the blessings of the authors.

JAPAN

We landed in Tokyo on a rain-wet April morning. Preparation for a tour next day took the balance of the morning, so it was early Saturday afternoon when we started by taxi to Ueno Park, where the National Science Museum was part of the National Museum complex. On the way we caught glimpses of rose, green and yellow paper spring decorations blowing from the lamp posts and bright colored umbrellas at street corners. Everyone in Tokyo carried an umbrella that day.

We had written ahead to the Malacological Society of Japan, headquartered in the National Museum, asking if a message could be left at our hotel informing us what hours the Museum would be

JOHN & FAYE RATHBUN

open and giving us the name of someone to contact who hopefully might be able to talk about shells - in English. The letter is probably still going through channels somewhere in the National Museum maybe waiting for an interpreter. It was simple to find out when the Museum was open, and we managed without a guide. Finding the office of the Malacological Society was beyond us. Saturday afternoon no one would have been there anyway.

We were directed toward the National Science Museum, barely discernible through the trees and the mist of steadily falling rain. How would we make known what we were looking for so that we wouldn't have to wander all afternoon through other displays? John asked me if I had our shell book with us. I whipped Sea Shells of the World out of my purse. It was a Golden Nature Guide indeed as nothing else was needed. A kind gentlemen, Tetsujro Senuma, was stationed at the door taking tickets. Someone took his place while he conducted us deep into the building to the shell exhibit. (next page)

RATHBUN - Continued

In an area of about 15' x 20' there were several interesting displays. World-wide shells centered the area. Among them were two fantastic Spondylus regius, one orange and one pink. A crazy Dolabella auricularia with its unequal valves occupied one small corner. Phyllonotus regius was a beautiful medium-sized murex, white with deep pink frills. A brilliant row of Chlamys was an eye-catcher; orange, deep oranges, striped with a deeper color, lavender and rose. A Pecten freienakazara Kuroda, with its scaly ribs, intrigued us. The Haliotis gigantea shown was a good 9". Maybe it was the one they had had on hand for years because lately the ones we see for sale are more like 6 inches.

Cephalopoda were shown: octopus, cuttlefish and Nautilus. The latter appeared whole, cut in half and cut across the center in a way we had never before seen, showing six horizontal divisions. The same case showed a Neopilina galatheae, both ventral and dorsal views. It looked like an overgrown limpet, slightly oval and about 5" long. Its underside had queer fringe-like projections, five or six of them, on it. On a board were mounted Dentalium showing six variations of color. A case of intertidal invertebrates had sheets of blue plastic cut in waves to indicate the splash zone.

Having looked over the shell exhibit rather thoroughly we wandered farther and found a case of Echinoderms, including a spectacular starfish, Leiaster leachi, with orange and tan stripes on it, and cases of coral and sea fans.

Where were all of the shells we know come from the waters of Japan? Many were destroyed in World War 2 bombing. We decided, too, that probably the Natural Science Museum, like many of our museums here, lacks funds to buy the seashells it should have in it collection. Undoubtedly in private collections we would have found the superlative specimens we were seeking. Does anyone know the Emperor of Japan?

TAIWAN

We had written ahead to Dr. C. T. Lo, of the Malacological Society of China, to say when we would be arriving and that we were looking forward to meeting him and seeing some Taiwan shells. Our schedule in Taiwan seemed very full, with a one-day trip out of Taipei to Taroka Gorge and the Palace Museum which we didn't want to miss, so I wondered if we'd have time to look up Dr. Lo, especially since we hadn't had a reply to our letter. I inquired of our guide about the location of the Malacological Society. He took us there one afternoon, to the adjacent Provincial Museum display and to a shell shop.

We were welcomed at the Malacological Society by Dr. Lo's assistant. Dr. Lo was in the United States just at that time, but his assistant had read our letter and was glad to take us around. Everyone in the department was busy, with shells scattered all over in orderly confusion. I felt a warm feeling of empathy when I asked what a couple of specimens were and was told they didn't know either; that they were working on them.

The Malacological Society headquarters was in a basement room as was the Museum's seashell exhibit next door. If it hadn't been for several personal collections it wouldn't have amounted to much. There was a collection of world-wide shells, one from cold waters and one from tropical waters. We had started in Japan looking for information about pearls and were happy to find a display board here of either Pinctada martensii Dunker or Pteria penguin Roding (sorry that I didn't jot down which. I knew at the time but I've forgotten.) showing the growth of pearls. (Five different stages.)

The store that Milton Lu, our guide, took us to specialized in mother of pearl items imported from the Philippines. As for specimen shells, they had only a couple, both at very reasonable prices. We already possessed them and since space in our luggage was at a premium we couldn't even think of bringing any home for trading. One small box 3" x 3', held was looked like a pile of pieces of broken shells. That's what they were. They were attached to Xenophoridae. We were able to find four among the rubble and were happy to buy them. The store had a display case full of miscellaneous shells as I have seen them here full of wrapped candies. None were named and they were in all the way from good to bad condition. I was like a kid in a candy store and would be there still if John hadn't insisted upon leaving.

SINGAPORE

On the plane on the way to Singapore, I asked the young Chinese man who sat next to me if he knew where in Singapore I could see some seashells. His English wasn't too good, but I held out our trusty Golden Guide and his eyed lighted up. "Sentosa," he exclaimed, "It is too much!" He used the phrase "too much" as if he meant "wonderful". I wasn't sure of the word "Sentosa" and asked him to write it down for me. He was glad to do it - in Chinese. The only problem was that the first person I approached couldn't read Chinese. He could understand my approximation of "Sentosa" though and told me about it.

In order to entice the tourists to spend more time in Singapore, severaleral islands are being and will be touted as recreational areas with swimming, golfing, boating, etc. Sentosa has in addition a Maritime Museum, a roller skating complex, and what interested us most, a 1.8 million dollar coralarium. One wall formed a map of the world. Shells were mounted on free-form islands so placed that they indicated which area the shells were from. Live sponges, sea anemones, echinoderms and hard and soft corals were in an aquarium, with flourescent corals in a separate display. Different exhibits showed eggs of various sea animals, color and shape variations of shells and such things as the differences between the male and female Lambis. We enjoyed it all, spending even more time than necessary to see everything because it was cool on the island. We were refugees from Singapore's humid heat and dreaded going back.

BALI

Our hotel in Bali, near Denpasar, was on the beach. We were up and out every morning at six. We didn't come prepared with footwear to wear on the reef. We found just one live shell, Oliva vidua Roding, but lots of puzzling beach specimens. We met a fellow sheller from Ontario, Canada, also a member of the Hawaiian Malacological Society. We didn't have much time to talk because he was leaving just as we arrived. Unfortunately, we were in Bali only three days. I've heard that there's no rest for the wicked!

JAKARTA

Because our plane was late, we were in Jakarta less than 24 hours. Under the door of our hotel room, when we arrived, we found a note from a man in the local touring company. Our travel agent had alerted everyone along the way to the fact that we were interested in shells. It really hadn't done us any good heretofore, but this contact may work into something later. In the letter the writer suggested that we trade shells. We was off work for the day, the next day was Sunday and he was not at work and he had no telephone so it was impossible to reach him. We bundled some of our trading material we had with us into a box and left it with our Jakarta guide to give to him. I'm still waiting to hear if he received it. Since the shells were all self-collected and with opercs I hope he did.

BANGKOK

We visited Bangkok during it hottest season, which, believe me, is vert hot. We had written ahead to two people. We arrived at our hotel about four in the afternoon and immediately started trying to reach them both by phone. They had both left their places of business and neither had yet arrived home. I left our number and Mr. da Motta's office. Mrs. Wanadit's daughter who answered the phone could neither speak nor understand English so the operator at the hotel switchboard offerred to call and talk to her. The operator informed me what time Mrs. Wanadit was expected to return. When I called Mrs. Wanadit later she said they would come for us

RATHBUN - Continued

in their car the next day.

We have never seen a collection that, for sheer beauty, exceeded the Wanadits'! We saw not just one Pecten nobilis Reeve, but 29 of them in orange, purple, lemon and orange stripes. We saw 38 Tridacna squamosa Lamarck in orange, yellow and white. We saw 59 Spondylus crassisquamatus Lamarck, with their white or orange spines spectacular against their red shells. These specimens interested us especially because Peter Dance says a synonym for S. crassisquamatus is S. princeps, which we have in our collection from the Panamic province. They had a shelf full of Chama - - purple, yellow, white and brown. About 17 Xenophora pallidula Reeve intrigued me so with their varied attachments that I lost count. We saw Nautilus pompilius Linnaeus with seven in a growth series. The smallest one was 1.9 centimeters. They had a number of a shell endemic to Thailand, Strombus listeri T. Gray. To cap their collection they had a 4½" Cypraea aurantium Gmelin, and a smaller one, 3", without flaw, shimmering as no other shell does. They had many other shells, each perfect, representative of other parts of the world. Their colorful shells made a blaze of color as one entered their house that was unforgettable. They returned us to our hotel at the end of a memorable afternoon.

We had known of Bob DaMotta's activities on behalf of shelling and his interest in Conidae, but we had not realized his towering reputation among cone collectors. When Mrs. Wanadit told us we felt it would be presumptuous to take up his time. When he telephoned us he wouldn't permit us to beg off and we decided that every collector enjoys talking about his shells. We were glad we did because we'll probably never see so many interesting and valuable Conidae at one time again. We had what we might call a glorious afternoon because we saw together in one place a Glory-of-the-Sea, Conus gloriamaris Chemnitz, 1777, 142 mm in length; the Glory-of-India, C. milne-edwardsi, 134 mm. and Glory-of-Thailand, C. bengalensis. The record C. gloriamaris is owned by Fernando Dayrit of Manila, 164 mm. from Mactan Island. Mr. Da Motta's came from Sogod, N.E. Cebu Island, where, according to the March (1977) Hawaiian Shell News, a lot of shelling activity is taking place. We were shown a collection of the C. victor family and one of the C. barthelemyi family and an interesting C. armadillo that was definitely scaley from Taiwan, also a C. stupa as distinct from C. stupella which is not as rare, a C. eumitus Tomlin, 1926, from the Gulf of Guinea and C. bullatus Linne, 1758, 68 mm. and unusual color forms of C. marmoreus Linne, such as red and yellow. We felt very privileged to view C. deburghiae from Ceram, which is usually seen only out of old collections and a shell never seen, Mr. da Motta told us, even in museums, C. excelsus Sowerby, 1908, from the Indian Ocean. C. excelsus is one of the textile group, but has kinky lines instead of tent-like patterns.

It was exciting to have a chance to look at the Conus sp. which has been discussed in several issues of the Hawaiian Shell News as either a color variation of C. australis Roding or a valid new species for which the name "ranonganus" has been chosen. The afternoon was like a gourmet dinner set before people who are accustomed to pizzas and pop, because although we like cones and have a few, none of them are in the same class as thos of Mr. da Motta. It was a real privilege to have seen them.

MANILA

We had received a very cordial letter from Carlos Leobrera of Manila in response to ours saying that we hoped to visit the Carfel Museum while we were in Manila, so we looked forward to the occasion. We had been told the Museum was just a few blocks away from our hotel. That makes the trip to the Carfel Museum sound simple. It would have been if the streets hadn't been torn up so that they were impassable. (Does that sound familiar to us Portlanders!) We were met at the door by Monette Leobrera, about 10 years old, who acted as our guide through part of the Museum, and a very competent one too. It was a tremendously interesting display of shells. Mr. Leobrera says that it represents about one-third of their collection. The cost of renting space to show the complete collection and for insurance to cover it would run too high. We can all sympathize with his problems. We know of very few collectors who wouldn't like more space and we haven't seen their garages, basements, or under their beds! Mr Leobrera let me cradle a Cypraea valentia in my hand. I knew it was tremendously valuable, but if I had known how valuable I'd probably have dropped it!

There are mane shell shops in Manila, we are sure, but we didn't even try to find them. It was hot in Manila and it was time to go home. We had seen many beautiful things, we had learned a lot, but we had reached the point when it was time to go home.

(In August the Rathbuns and your Editor will be travelling in a group of collectors to sample the shells of Micronesia - Guam and Palau.)

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Although I haven't been as active as I'd like to, shelling is still one of my favorite pastimes. School work occupies my "free time" quite well. I am currently persuing a degree in Geology at the California State University - Northridge, and I plan to specialize in paleontology.

My shelling has been limited to Southern California and a few trips to Hawaii several years ago. In fact, I was a member of the Hawaiian Malacological Society for 3 years (I quit because they insisted that there was no way an amateur collector from California could collect a fresh-dead Cypraea semiplota, even though the specimen had been confirmed by Joan Grace of Honolulu and by Ruth Greenberg of the Tidepool Gallery, Malibu.).

I am a general collector, but the Cypraea are my major interest. Recently I've been collecting fossil mollusks of California. The Topanga and Modello Formations of Los Angeles, both Miocene, have turned up excellent specimens of mollusks and are easily accessible and in fact I have many specimens to exchange.

I learned of the C.O.A. from Kirk Anders of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and I hope to remain a member for quite a while.

Lindsey T. Groves
5911 Whitsett Avenue, #4
North Hollywood, California 91607

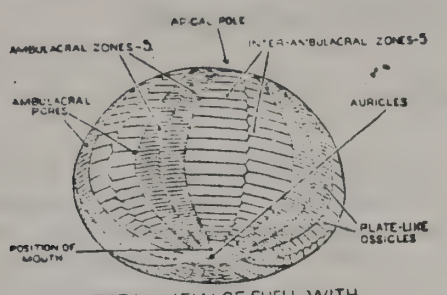
CURIOSITY LEADS TO KNOWLEDGE

LILLIAN HEMMIE

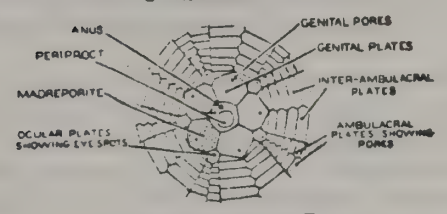
On a recent shelling trip to the island of Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, snorkeling along in the crystal-clear water - I was thrilled at the beauty of hundreds of snow white sea urchins scattered over a large rock outcropping. The sun was shining down thru the water and every one of those urchins had several bits of small stones in the center of the top. This was near a hotel and one urchin had a matchbook spread open over the top, like an umbrella! I had never seen anything like that on any urchins! I asked our leaders and expert divers and no one seemed to know. On returning home I got all the books I could find on sea urchins and learned that this species is named Trepneustes gratilla and it has a habit of doing this, one author state that it might be to protect it from the heat of the sun at low tide. (Continued on the next page.)

HEMMIE - Continued

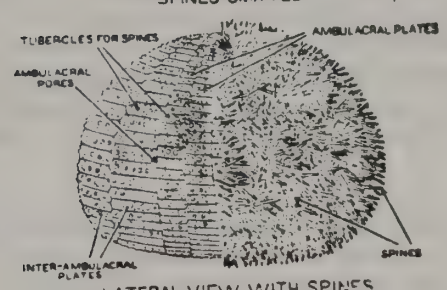
PLATE 218



LATERAL VIEW OF SHELL WITH SPINES OMITTED

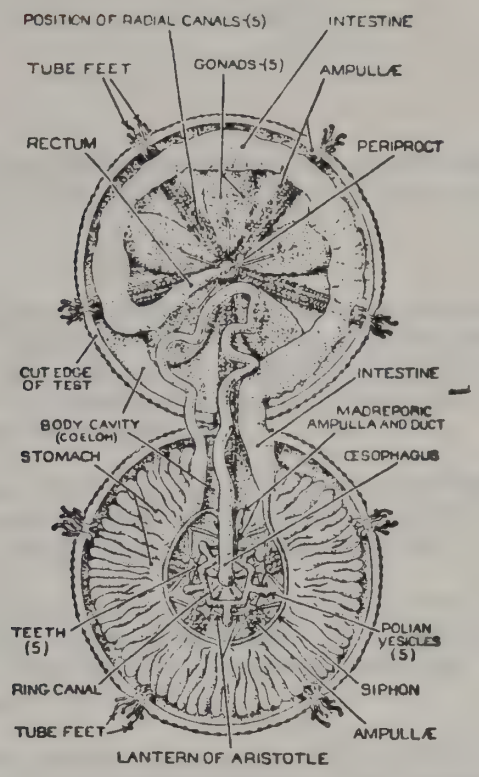


APICAL VIEW WITH SPINES OMITTED



LATERAL VIEW WITH SPINES REMOVED FROM LEFT HALF

PLATE 219



INTERNAL ANATOMY OF A TYPICAL ECHINOID
(TEST BISECTED HORIZONTALLY AND OPENED OUT TO SHOW INTERNAL ORGANS)

Sea Urchins are of the family of Echinoderms, meaning spiney-skinned animals. (Even the spines have an invisible skin.) The shells are calcareous plates, joined edge to edge to form a compact shell (test), on which are mounted a varied armament of moveable spines and numerous pores, arranged in orderly patterns penetrating the shell. These pores provide egress for the long sucker-tipped feet, which are in ten equally spaced bands radiating from the upper center of the test. These tube-feet have a sucking pneumatic disc, containing a complex skeleton of calcareous rods and spicules. Each tube-foot requires two pores to function in extension. I could not understand why a single tube-foot needed two openings! I finally found another book explaining that the tube-feet were connected to the water-vascular system - the two perforations of the plates provided for each tube-foot so that the contained fluid may enter the foot by one canal and return to the ampulla by the other. In motion the ampulla is contracted and the fluid is forced into the tube-foot extending it into a long finger-like process. In coming in contact with any object, the disc at the end of the tube-foot presses tightly against the object, and the muscles of the tube-foot contract - the water it contains returns to the ampulla, and the tube-foot tends to shorten. Internal cilia keep the circulation of the fluid in the tube-feet so it is constantly changing. An exchange of gases takes place between this fluid and the sea water, thereby accomplishing a supplimentary respiration.

In the Purple Sea Urchin, only the tube-feet of the lower part of the body have suckers, used for locomotion, those of the upper part are adapted for respiration. In other species all the tube-feet have suckers. The tube-feet are also highly sensitive to various stimuli - some enable the animal to taste! Just think of all that in this common Sea Urchin! I certainly will handle them with much more respect!

Sea Urchins are very prolific in the warm tropical waters; they like to form in crevasses and under the edges of rocks - some are in hollows of hard rock, too small to extract as all of us have found, these hollows are believed to be caused by the constant rubbing of the spines against the rock, gradually wearing it away as the animal grew. There is evidence also that the teeth play a part in the rock cutting.

The base of the large spines provide one of the finest examples of the ball and socket joint in the animal kingdom, they are for the protection and also by movement of the lower part, the animal can perform a sort of walking on their tips, aided by the tube-feet. Scattered among the spines are pedicellariae that are mounted on long flexible stalks with three-fold pincer-like jaws at the top - when opened the jaws grasp anything within reach and act as weapons of defense, discharging an irritating poison from the triple poison glands - they also remove sediment and other foreign substances which, when loosened, the spines carry away.

The mouth of the sea urchin is usually at the lower part. Peeping out of the mouth may be seen tips of five enamel-like teeth, an amazing and complicated jaw apparatus that was called "Aristotle's Lantern" 2,000 years ago.

The Urchins are vegetable feeders, eating sea-weed, algae scum and small mollusks. The spines of the Slate-pencil Urchin are thick and blunt, they are used extensively in shellcraft for wind chimes, etc. The short-spined ones seem harmless, but the long needle-sharp spines of the beautiful jet-black Diadema inflict a sharp burning sting - a fragment of the spine can cause an infection. It is almost impossible to collect one, I know, I have tried. Also they have discovered a tiny black fish and a shrimp that live amongst the Diadema spines.

Urchins have considerable powers of regeneration, easily repairing injuries to the test and quickly replacing spines and other exterior parts.

Urchins also have an economic value - the reproductive organs are prized for food in the tropica and elsewhere. I recently saw, in the newspaper, where some countries are planning to can it and ship all over the world as "gourmet food". The fishermen of China roast

(Continued on page 6)

SHALLOW WATER SHELLING IN THE RED SEA

GEORGE WEITLAUF

The area where I am now shelling is an outstanding example for superb shallow-water shelling for non-divers. For at least 100 kilometers north of Jeddah, which I have been exploring for the past year, there is an off-shore reef extending the entire distance. This reef is anywhere from 200 meters to several hundred meters out from the beach low tide line, the reef itself is normally under a foot or so of water, but can be followed by sight due to the surf line.

The water inside the reef varies in depth and does have a few deep spots, but the majority of the area is shallow - from one to four feet and can be waded even at high tide. The bottom of this area varies greatly even within a short distance. Most of it is a sandy bottom with large numbers of broken rocks and dead coral heads strewn about, some parts are mud and sand mixed and these support a considerable marine growth. Other spots are consolidated rock and coral with many cracks, crevices and holes mostly inhabited by something. The land side of the reef is unconsolidated coral rubble while the sea side is a mass of living coral of every type, color and shape. With this variety of bottom, you can find the habitat of almost any of the shallow water species.

The shelling in this area is really outstanding and I have found a large number of species including some whose stated habitat is in much deeper water. The number would be too long to list, but to date I have identified over 50 species and have many more unidentified as all my reference books are not here with me. Some conditions I have found are quite interesting and I pass my observations on for informative purposes.

COWRIES

1. Some types seem to be much smaller in the Red Sea than in other areas of the Indo-Pacific where I have shelled. For example: completely mature C. isabella only 21 mm, C. carneola 18 mm, and C. nebrites 12 mm. This may be due to food availability or perhaps the very high salt content of the water.

2. The C. nebrites here are very dark and in some cases the mid-section blotch is almost black.

3. Some references state that C. camelopardalis is a deep water species. This may be correct, but none of my diver friends have found any while I have found three - all in water about 12 inches deep. All were under rock slabs on a mud bottom. I have found none on a sandy bottom.

4. Cypraea pantherina is said to come from deeper water than C. tigris, but I have found dozens all in water under three feet deep. All were attached to live and dead coral of the lumpy type and with their mantle out they looked just like another lump. They do not seem to like to withdraw their mantle even when touched or exposed to direct sunlight. This is especially true of immature specimens.

5. C. kieneri seems to have an affinity for soft black sponge. I had picked up a piece of this sponge and broke it open to see the composition. There, right in the center, was a C. kieneri. I repeated the process with more sponges and found two more kieneri. (Also various small crabs and a Cypraea walkeri.)

6. Cypraea erythraeensis is found deep inside clumps of fine dead coral, at least all I have found were so located. Also every one I found had its mantle fully extended and matched exactly the color of the coral it was in. This cowrie may be more common than thought, but just hard to see.

7. References I have state that Cypraea coloba is restricted to the northern Indian Ocean, but I have found a couple of them here.

CONES

1. Textile cones here are consistantly smaller and much darker than those I have found elsewhere. Also, they are not as heavy at and just below the shoulder. Many older C. textile shells are badly eroded at the spire and sometimes the back also, making them look like a dead specimen except at the lip.

2. Conus omaria seems to be the most common cone here and many of the patterns are beautiful. Many have very distinct growth lines and quite often the pattern changes completely at the line.

3. The Conus vexillum here are very beautiful, with wavy dark lines from shoulder to tip. They are found exposed in the coral rubble at the surf line of the reef and due to this habitat most have break scars on them.

4. C. obscurus is quite available here, but is small with the average size being about 32 mm. All I have found have been under rock slabs on a mud and sand bottom in very shallow water, only 6 to 12 inches deep.

5. C. arenatus are exceptionally large here and in very good condition. They are found on the land side of the reef in quiet water and on a sand bottom. They are quite easy to find at night as they are often on an otherwise clear patch of sand.

6. Conus flavidus are often found in groups. In a hole of a dead coral head, only a few inches across, I found eight. In another similar situation I found four. In the same hole with the eight were two C. rattus. The coronatus here, unless I have misidentified, are also quite different than those I have known elsewhere. They are not so swollen below the shoulder, have continuous rings of dashes all around the shell and on the body whorl have five distinct bands, three dark divided by two light. There are no blotches or mottling as I have seen before.

8. C. striatus come in an assortment of patterns and colors, mostly lavender or light brown on white and are most attractive. They can be found in the sand at the base of large coral heads. They seem to stay under the sand and I have not found them exposed even at night.

9. Conus nussatella is found in coral rubble. The only two I have found were at the reef surf line below the rubble which in turn was below a large rock. They are difficult to see as many bits of the broken coral are the same general shape and color.

STROMBS

1. Strombus tricornis is available in quantity, but the older shells are of little interest as they become covered with such a heavy callus as to be unattractive. Although I have not noticed sexual dimorphism mentioned in connection with this species, I think it exists because there are two quite distinct types. One ranges in size from 70 to 80 mm, is fairly light in structure and the wing extends well above the spire. The second "form" ranges from 100 to 125 mm, is more bulky and heavy and the wing extends only to or slightly above the spire. These shells are found on mud and sand bottom and come into such shallow water that they are often stranded by the tide. Despite the extreme heat, this

(Continued on next page)

HEMMIE - Continued from page 4

them over a camp fire to eat. I recently saw a travelogue on Lebanon where the divers, with face masks, brought up baskets of urchins - with scissors they cut the tests in two, exposing the bright orange organs which they picked out and ate. The photographer was permitted to take the photographs, if he would eat some, which he grudginly did - not much taste, he reported. They are also food for some fish.

We have all gathered Sea Urchins, thinking only of getting a pretty shell (test) and getting the mushy goop out - but it is almost unbelievable that that mushy-goop can create such mathematically perfect exquisite houses with varied working parts - just another example of the Marvels of Nature!

WEITLAUF - Continued from previous page

stranding does not seem to bother them and they resume activity with the incoming tide.

2. Strombus gibberulus alba is much more beautiful than the reference books picture. Many are pure white and with an interior of so deep a rose as to show through the semi-transparent white. They are found in large colonies in shallow water with either sand or mud bottom. They seem to be a favorite meal for the octopus, as you can see piles of crunched shells by every octopus hole.

3. S. fasciatus is also more lovely than credited. Many have very heavy black markings and this contrasted with the darker orange interior is most striking. They are found under the same conditions as the albus and are also on the diet of the octopus.

4. Lambis lambis are found on a mud and sand bottom, usually where there is heavy marine growth, either to hide them or as food or both. Often you can find a number of them in various stages of growth in one small area. This allows for study and comparison without disturbing them. As with many Strombus, the older ones are quite covered with callus and are not attractive. A fair number have more digitations than "normal".

5. Tibia insulaechorab comes into shallow water and I have found them in as little as 18 inches of water. However, the only ones I have found in shallow water were all very old and they may retreat to this environment with old age.

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FROM THE EDITOR

It's time to start making your plans to attend the C.O.A. 1978 Convention in Westbury, Long Island, New York (details on page 1) the end of September. Remember, the special air fares require booking well in advance so it's not too soon to be getting your plane space reserved. C.O.A. Conventions are always informative and fun - just ask someone whose been to one. Many of the more scientific organizations seem to gear their conventions only to the scientists amongst us, but the C.O.A. remembers that the basis of conchology is the amateur collector and our programs, while including scientific talks, emphasise this fact and our talks are on a wide variety of topics of interest, and in language understandable, to the amateur sheller. Activities surrounding the Convention are unique as well - the annual "Garbage Can Punch Evening" for instance, plus all the other social happenings make the C.O.A. Convention THE even to attend this year. See you all there!

Thanks to my Associate Editors Lillian Hemmie and Mary Palmer for submitting articles for this issue and to George Weitlauf and John and Faye Rathbun for their contributions. Now for the rest of you - we're all waiting to hear about that collecting trip of yours, or your favorite shell, or how you became interested in shells, etc. Send it along today. We have another issue coming out the end of August.

Until then,

TOM RICE, Editor

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Send check or money-order to Treasurer (address above).

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C. O. A. CONVENTION

As announced in our last Bulletin, the 1978 Convention of the Conchologists of America will be held at the Island Inn, Westbury, Long Island, New York, commencing Wednesday September 27th and ending Saturday evening, September 30, 1978. This sixth annual meeting is hosted by the Long Island Shell Club and promises to be great!

Registration will take place Wednesday morning and the convention will officially start Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday evening a "Get Acquainted" cocktail party will be hosted by the Long Island Shell Club.

Weather pemitting a collecting field trip is planned for Thursday September 28th - to Orient Beach State Park, on the extreme northern tip of Long Island. Thursday evening the host club will present a shell exhibit, followed by a color film on the Great Barrier Reef.

Friday is another field trip - this time to the American Museum of Natural History to view the famous "Hall of Mollusks". Friday afternoon we'll visit the Coney Island Aquarium which has LIVE Chambered Nautilus on display. Friday evening we'll hold the annual shell auction - with donations from shell dealers and our members throughout the world.

Saturday morning presentation of talks will continue while the afternoon will see the annual business meeting. The convention will conclude Saturday evening with a gala banquet.

DR. R. TUCKER ABBOTT will be the featured speaker at the annual banquet - also attending will be Dr. S. PETER DANCE!

Throughout the convention door prizes will be given away - books donated by their publishers. You must be present to win.

If you have not yet done so, please send your ADVANCE REGISTRATION form (or use the form below). Or if you have a friend who would like to attend; or maybe a shelling friend who lives in the New York City area - send it to them so that they can attend this great meeting.

The C.O.A. Conventions have to be the most fun of any of the national shell meetings! If you haven't attended before you have a real treat in store.

Additional information, forms, etc. can be obtained by writing to the CONVENTION CHAIRMAN -
MARTIN LERNER; 64 Thompson Avenue
Oceanside, New York 11572

Registration Form

NAME:

See page 4 for Hotel Information

ADDRESS:

Number in Party:

Will Arrive September:

Registration fee: $10.00 per person - Amount enclosed: $.

Complete and mail to: Martin Lerner; 64 Thompson Avenue; Oceanside, New York 11572

Nominating Committee

During the Annual Business Meeting, held during each convention, a Nominating Committee presents a slate of officers to present to the membership in attendance at the Convention.

This year's Nominating Committee consists of the following members, three in number: Tom Rice, Editor Pro Tem of the COA Bulletin, Publisher of Of Sea and Shore Magazine, Curator of Of Sea and Shore Museum, organizer of shelling trips to the far corners of the world, and a Past-President of COA; Gerrie Walklet, current Treasurer of COA, Physical Education Instructor and avid traveler and sheller; Martin Lerner, this year's able Convention Chairman and attorney. (Please turn to page 3)

Red Sea Shelling

GEORGE WEITLAUF

Since I have had time to do quite a bit more shelling since last I wrote, I have some additional information regarding some of the shells found in the shallows of the Red Sea.

1. CYPRAEA

A. Cypraea camelopardalis Perry. I had stated that I thought this was a shallow water shell, but that opinion was based upon only 3 specimens that I had found. I have now found over a dozen and can confirm my belief. In every case they were in water of 12 inches or less and in some cases as little as 3 or 4 inches. Also, in each case they were under a large rock slab on a mud bottom. In no case have I found them under coral or on sand. It may be that their food relates only to the rock and/or mud.

B. Cypraea kieneri Hidalgo. I had mentioned finding these in a black sponge-like growth. I have found since that another habitat is inside the shells of dead barnacles that are still attached to rocks at the sea edge of the barrier reef. I have found as many as 3 inside one large dead barnacle and numerous pairs.

C. Cypraea isabella Linne. Those found here are somewhat different from those in the Thailand, Taiwan and Philippines areas. They are smaller and thin in proportion to length. Also, they seem more gray and have fewer axial lines. All I have found have been in the reef surfline under lumps of dead coral. Usually there have been two or more under the same coral slab.

D. Cypraea pulchra Gray. Althpugh this is rated as rare in some references, I do not think it is really rare, but only difficult to find. Each of the six I found to date have been 10 to 12 inches deep in holes near the base of live coral heads of the brown lumpy-type. They are very difficult to see and hard to extract when the coral is attached to the bottom.

E. Cypraea limacina Lamarck. Those found here are small and very dark brown, almost black. They are found on the sea edge of the barrier reef in the fronds of fine coral. The bottom is coral rubble and the water turbulent.

F. Cypraea punctata Linne. I did not realize these were found in the Red Sea until locating one recently. It was clinging to a small bit of coral in the surf line of the reef. I will try to determine if this is the normal habitat.

2. CONUS

A. Conus monachus Linne. This is a very common cone in this area, but never seems to attain the size it does elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific (this is true of a number of species found here and it may be connected to the extreme salinity of the Red Sea). They are found on or near the barrier reef under rocks or coral on rubble bottom. They are sometimes found on a sand bottom, but rubble seems to be preferred.

B. Conus rattus Hwass. These are quite common here and the only variation I find is that in some the body is solid olive-green or bluish-black, with only the shoulder area having whitish blotches. Usually found in the rubble of the reef, under slabs or in crevices.

C. Conus virgo Linne. A common shell here found in the lagoon side of the reef in sand under or at the base of large live coral heads. They are almost always found in pairs or more. The thick black periostracum is most difficult to remove, but the end result is worth the effort.

D. Conus aulicus Linne. I have only found two of these here, so am not sure of the habitat. Both those found were on a coral reef about 5 miles off shore in a crevice filled with rubble; water about 6 feet deep.

E. Conus musicus Hwass. This is very common here, with many being found together. They are found under rock or coral slabs on the lagoon side of the reef in quiet water and sand bottom. They are very small here, always on the short end of the size range.

The Dwarf Hawk-wing Conch

CORINNE E. EDWARDS

I've long had a fondness for self-collected Florida Strombidae, though I've never found a live Strombus gallus Linne, the Rooster-tail Conch, distinguished by its very extended tip of the outer lip. In the Palm Beach County Shell Club 1974 Shell Show (before 25-40 foot "see ALL my shells" types of displays were the rage), I took the DuPont Trophy for the Outstanding Exhibit on just two cases of Strombus gigas Linne, the massive Pink or Queen Conch.

Strombus raninus Gmelin is my favorite Strombus from Florida, and I have quite a collection from the Bear Cut area. Bear Cut runs between Virginia Key and Key Biscayne in Miami. On the grass flats on the north-east tip of Key Biscayne, toward the rocky point of fossilized mangrove roots, we used to find adult Hawk-wing Conch with a row of small knobs on the shoulder instead of the two high, blunt spines as described in shell books. I say "used to" because progress has set in. The area is part of the Dade County Park and is now posted against shell collecting. A strong current now rushes through Bear Cut, close to shore at the point and perhaps washes most veligers out to sea. At other Florida locations, such as Bahia Honda on the Keys, we find larger-than-normal adult Hawk-wing Conchs with especially high shoulder spines or tubercles and shells with extra-frilly or beautifully-tinted aperture lips. As with many Strombus shells, when the animal is old, that very thick outer lip and the parietal wall become a darkened silver color. Occasionally someone finds a mature Hawk-wing nearly pure orange in color. I have one from the Keys that is almost white, though not an albino. like to slip an immature Hawk-wing Conch shell in with a display of Conus regius Gmelin, the Crown Cone, as they look enough alike to fool those who have trouble identifying an immature Strombus that has not yet formed the adult wing. Shell book pictures or descriptions can never cover all points of easily recognizable, yet variable shells.

Off the Cape Florida lighthouse, which was built in 1825 on the southern tip of Key Biscayne, are the Finger Channels. At very low minus tides in the spring, shell collectors can wander over acre of exposed sand, coral, rubble and grass flats -- or snorkel in the channels between these coral shoals. By arranging for boats to get them out there, any number of south Florida shell clubs enjoy satisfying field trips. By the way, the South Florida Shell Club has changed its name to the Greater Miami Shell Club due to there being 13 south Florida shell clubs - most of which are easily located by their shell club area name. (Continued on page 3)

The "Dwarf" Hawk-wing Conch - Continued from page 2

On the Finger Channel flats, Strombus raninus run rather small, with a few male shells as small as 2 inches, but the tip of the wing of the adult shell is usually nearly as high, or even higher, than the tip of the spire.

Peanut Island is located in Lake Worth at the Lake Worth Inlet, between Palm Beach Shores and Palm Beach. This was the only known habitat of a truly dwarf Strombus raninus. I collected my very first "dwarf" there in 1961. It was a little gem, so small that I could hardly believe it was a Hawk-wing Conch. In The Nautilus, Volume 56, Number 1, Dr. Blenn Rife Bales (1876-1946) described Strombus raninus nanus in 1942 -- though shell books give the date of Strombus raninus nanus Bales as 1938. This shell had been known as the "dwarf from Lake Worth" since 1936 or earlier. It was sufficiently different from the larger Hawk-wing to warrant a subspecific name. Bales description notes that the tip of the lip or wing never extends above the apex as it does in most normal-sized adults. The average color is darker and the shell texture is much finer; the shell is usually very glossy. Large series of fully mature "dwarfs from Lake Worth" showed an average size of only 50mm., or less. I saw "or less" as Tom and Paul McGinty of Boynton Beach Florida have a specimen only 36.7mm in height and so do I.

Time after time, reports in shell-oriented publications have stated that the writer, shell collecting on the Finger Channel Flats, has found a Strombus raninus nanus Bales. I GNASH MY TEETH ! I believe this is just not so!!

I can see better through my face mask while snorkeling than I can wading or walking on those flats. Once I snorkeled for several hours and filled my net shelling apron with Hawk-wing Conchs. Every now and then I looked them over, kept the ten or twelve smallest ones and threw the rest (probably females) back in the grass where no one was walking. I took home 15 fully-mature, thick-lipped, but very small mollusks. Every single one turned out to be a male mollusk with the very obvious penis. None were as small or fitted the description of the average Strombus raninus nanus Bale - Doc Bales' "dwarf from Lake Worth" which we do not find any more. When knowledge of this "dwarf from Lake Worth" spread in 1936-1945, several collectors in those days are known to have taken them in lots of several hundred. Think of it! Keeping Lake Worth Inlet open and the channels navigatable, boat traffic in Lake Worth, and the boards of boat-owning picnicers on Peanut Island these days have now depleted the molluscan population of Lake Worth's other very special shells as well as the "dwarf from Lake Worth".

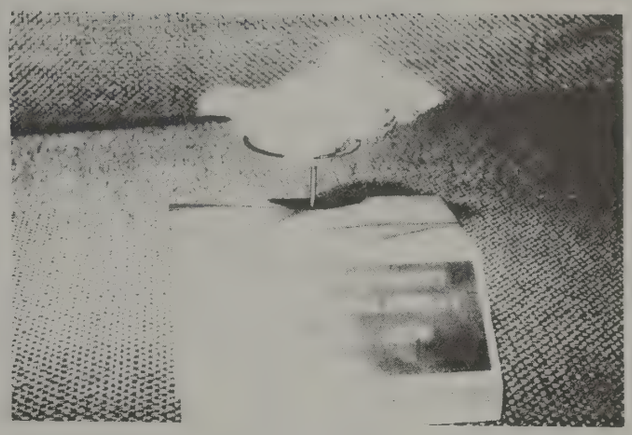
Those small male shells from the Finger Channel flats, or ones that are advertised by dealers, are not Strombus raninus nanus Bales 1938 (1942) in my estimation. They are not as small as the "dwarf from Lake Worth", nor do they fit the description in The Nautilus of 1942. A good friend of the Palm Beach County Shell Club, Harold Post of Lantana, gave me several of his true "dwarfs from Lake Worth" that he had collected long, long ago. Of course he did not give up his smallest specimens. However, they were so small that I have felt obliged to share most of them with Greater Miami Shell Club friends, in order to try to prove that those small male shells from the Finger Channel Flats, and so often reported as Strombus raninus nanus Bales, were not the "dwarf from Lake Worth" although they may be small shells.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Continued from Page 1

Whether or not you attend the Convention, we need your help! Send your suggestions and recommendations for officers to one or all of the Nominating Committee. Their addresses appear on page 1 of this Bulletin. Please be sure you have the consent of the people whom you'd like to have considered for nomination! This is vital! Offices to be filled are: President; Vice-President; Treasurer and Secretary. The Vice-President works with Membership recruitment.

Oregon Society's New Award

JOHN & FAYE RATHBUN



This year, at their 14th Annual Shell Show, the Oregon Society of Conchologists, for the first time, awarded a magnificent gold trophy named in honor of Jean McCluskey. It was in April and May of 1965 that Mrs. Leon McCluskey (Jean) and her son, Steve, together with two others, filled twenty 8-foot cases at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry with their shells. This created so much interest that the Oregon Shell Club, later named the Oregon Society of Conchologists, was organized on the spot.

Jean was our liason person working with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry on the Club's shell shows. Through the years she could always be counted on for an interesting exhibit. She won many prizes in the shell shows, but more than that she encouraged participation from others. Among her awareds were two DuPont trophies and several Shells-of-the-Show. Jean and her daughter enjoyed the 1976 C.O.A. Convention in Portland. She came home from the banquet the last night of the Convention happy with the Cypraea bargain she had bought at the auction. With her death, in June of 1977, the Club lost a friend and a valued member.

President Bob Zeller appointed a committee, chaired by Tom Hale and including Clair and Peige Stahl, to study the matter of a trophy to be called the "Jean McCluskey Award". The committee reported back with an idea that might be of use to other organizations. Our Club is not large, so we have been awarding only nine ribbons and the DuPont Trophy at our shows. This year we voted to add this new annual award, a gold-leafed specimen of Fusitriton oregonensis, very impressive atop a walnut stand complete with a brass plaque with Jean's name on it. It was won by the most educational exhibit in the Show. The points upon which the cases were judged gave our up-and-coming junior members as good a chance to win it as any of the rest of us.

We are fortunate to have a member in our Club, Maxine Hale, who knows how to do gold-leafing. If your club wants to do something of this kind, using your own State Shell, inquire locally if there are craft classes teaching gold-leafing. If not, maybe you could raise enough interest so that a Park Department or craftsmens' organization would start one. Maxine wanted to make sure that the idea was as good as it sounded. She gold-leafed an Astraea gibberosa, which was auctioned off to Club members for enough to cover the expense of the gold leaf for both shells. The accompanying photo, by Clair Stahl, will give an idea of what the trophy looks like. We are happy to add this unique citation to our list of annual awards because it is a symbol that indicates that Jean's influence will be an ongoing thing.

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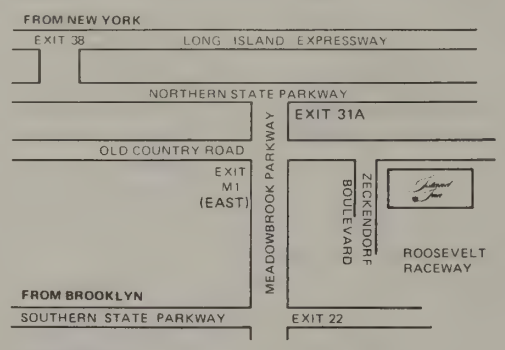

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Another section of the Index is included with this issue of the Bulletin. If you have not been listed and would like to be included, or ha changed address or interests from your previous listing, please fill out the following form and return it to the address indicated. We hoı you are finding the Index useful and interesting.

Name:

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Bulletins issued last day of April, August and December

1978 C. O. A. CONVENTION

The Sixth Annual Convention of the Conchologists of America came to a happy conclusion Saturday evening, September 30th, 1978, at the annual banquet with Dr. R. Tucker Abbott as guest speaker.

The convention was held, this year, at the Island Inn, Westbury, New York and was hosted by the Long Island Shell Club.

Registration took place Wednesday morning, September 27 and the convention officially started Wednesday afternoon with a series of programs designed to appeal to the shell collector. Wednesday evening the Long Island Shell Club hosted a "Get Acquainted" cocktail party at which time the delegates to the convention met the members of the Long Island Shell Club.

Thursday the programs and presentations continued and that evening the Long Island Shell Club presented a fine non-competitive shell show for the entertainment of the COA members. Early Friday morning the members boarded a bus for the trip to New York City and the American Museum of Natural History to view the fabulous Hall of Mollusks and to meet Dr. William K. Emerson, curator, and view the "back room" of the Museum. Dr. Emerson, with the assistance of our own Bill Old, Jr., explained the workings of the Department of Living Invertebrates and particularly the Division of Mollusks and permitted the members to view part of the Museum's extensive collection of shells.

A tired group boarded the bus at 4:00 p.m. to arrive back at the Island Inn just in time to join Dr. and Mrs. R. Tucker Abbott and S. Peter Dance for dinner at a fine local Chinese restaurant. Immediately following dinner the members returned to the convention center for a spectacular shell auction which did not terminate until the wee hours of the morning.

Saturday morning a bleary eyed group of delegates returned to the meeting rooms to witness and participate in a fascinating seminar conducted by Dr. Abbott and Peter Dance concerning the Psychology of Shell Collecting. This concluded the presentation portion of the convention and the members of the COA opened their business meeting at 1:00 p.m. New officers were elected for the forthcoming year and include the following: President: Gerrie Walklet
Vice President: Martin Lerner
Secretary: Richard Forbush
Treasurer: Clair Stahl

The delegates also passed several resolutions of interest to all members of the COA and to all shell collectors. One resolution was adopted providing for the presentation by the COA of a trophy to be awarded to an outstanding exhibit at a competitive shell show sponsored by a shell club which meets the requirements to be formulated by the COA Committee. Details of the award will be forthcoming to all shell clubs in the near future. See page 5 of this Bulletin.

A second and equally important resolution was adopted which provides that the COA will act as a reporting agency for information relating to stolen shells and shell collections. See page 6 this issue.

The convention concluded Saturday evening with a gala banquet with Dr. Abbott as guest speaker delivering a fascinating talk on the "Habitat of the Mollusks" using dual slide projectors and screens.

All participants left for their respective homes Sunday tired but happy after a truly fine convention. We all look forward to next year's convention - see notice below.

AND IN 1979

The 7th Annual C.O.A. Convention will be held at the beautiful Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica, California. Overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean, the Miramar is a perfect site for shell collectors to gather for meetings. The C.O.A. will gather there from October 10 through October 13, 1979. Make your plans to attend now! Full details on out next issue, out the end of April.

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NEW C.O.A. TROPHY

Exhibitors in leading shell shows are now setting their sights on the new top trophy recently inaugurated by the Conchologists of America. Unlike other trophies, this unique award is sponsored by the community of American amateur and private collectors for the encouragement of both the hobby and science of conchology. In addition, valuable certificates good for shells, books, and subscriptions to both popular and scientific shell journals come with the top award.

Standards are higher than usual, and judges foresee keen competition and more exciting exhibits. Chairman of the COA awards committee, Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, has announced that the first presentation of this top award will be at the 1979 Broward Shell Club Show in Pompano Beach, Florida, in early February. The trophy is available to other qualifying shell shows. Information is available from R. Tucker Abbott, Chairperson, P.O. Box 4208, Greenville, DE 19807, or Co-chairperson, Margaret C. Teskey, Box 273, Big Pine Key, Florida 33043.

THANKS FOR THE SHELLS!

The specimen shells auctioned during the 1978 COA Convention were donated by members of the COA and by many shell dealers from throughout the world. We urge our members to patronize these dealers and we express our thanks and appreciation to all members and dealers who have been so generous in their contributions of material to make our 1978 auction a success. We list below, for your information, the names and addresses of the shell dealers who made contributions.

Carfel Shell Export; 1786A Mabini Street; Malate, Manila, P.I.
Fergusons Marine Specialities; 617 N. Fries Ave.; Wilmington, California 90744
Mal de Mer Enterprises; 946 Ralph Ave.; Brooklyn, NY 11236
Coin Shellcrafts; Coin House, Turner Rd.; Bandra, Bombay 400 050 India
Tidepool Gallery; 22762 Pacific Cst. Hwy.; Malibu, Calif. 90265
Barry Hargreaves; 56 Wroxton St.; Midland, W. Australia 6056
The Shell Factory; P.O. Box BB; Ft. Myers, Florida 33902
The Sun Traders Studio; P.O. Box 2093; Mesa, Arizona 85203
Brookmans; P.O. Box 49; Booval, Queensland 4304, Australia
Phillip W. Clover; P.O. Box 83; Glen Ellen, California 95442
Marine Fauna Reference Library; P.O. Box 20085; Durban North, Natal 4016, South Africa
Third Stone From The Sun; P.O. Box 474; Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Luiz Alonso Ferreira; Rua Republica do Equador, 81; 11.100 Santos, (S.P.), Brasil
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Miss Moonyeen de Silva; Lee Shell Export; Ja-Ela Estate, Ja-Ela, Sri Lanka
Richard & Mark Goldberg; 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane; Flushing, New York 11365
Veronica Parker Johns; Seashells Unlimited, Inc.; 590 Third Ave.; New York, NY 10016
Shamaron Shells; 229 W. 2nd St.; Deer Park, NY 11729
Kirk Anders; P.O. Box 14633; Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33302
M.J. Shell Ebterprises; Ja-Ela Estate; Ja-Ela, Sri Lanka

THANKS FOR THE BOOKS!

The following publishers have donated to Conchologists of America's 6th Annual Convention the publixations listed as door prizes - and for these contributions we say THANKS!

American Malacologists; P.O. Box 4208; Greenville, DE. 19807 48 copies of Abbott, R. Tucker, American Malacologists 1973-4 LC-7999. 1975 pap. text ed. The Best of the Nautilus. A Bicentennial Anthology of American Conchology. R. Tucker Abbott, editor. The Nautilus, A Quarterly Journal, R. Tucker Abbott, editor. Monographs of Marine Mollusks, R. Tucker Abbott, editor; scientific taxonomic monographs. Standard Catalog of Shells, Third edition; R.J. Wagner & R. Tucker Abbott, 1978. Living Marine Molluscs by C.M. Yonge & T.E. Thompson, 1976.

The American Philosophical Society; 104 South Fifth St.; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society - Vol. 52 Part 3, Studies on the Marine Pleistocene Parts 1 & 2, 1962.

Charles T. Branford Co.; 28 Union St. Box 41; Newton Centre, Mass. 02159. The Shell Book, Julia Ellen Rogers and Shellcraft by Anthony Parker

Great Outdoors Publishing Co.; 4747 28th St. N.; St. Petersburg, Florida 33714. How to Clean Seashells by Eugene Bergeron (1973). Let's Go Shelling by Frances P. McKay (1967). Shellcraft Instructions by Marjorie & Frank Pelosi. Shellcraft Animals by Patricia Pope (1975). Great Outdoors Book of Shells by Lula Siekman and Handbook of Shells by Lula Siekman.

Houghton Mifflin Co.; 2 Park St.; Boston, Mass. 02107. A Field Guide to Atlantic Coast Shells by Percy A. Morris (1973). A Field Guide to Pacific Coast Shells by Percy A. Morris (1974).

Humanities Press, Inc.; Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey 07716. Molluscs, 4th edition (1967) by J.E. Morton

Johnson Reprint Corporation; 111 Fifth Avenue; New York, NY 10003 Molluscan Fauna of the Big Vermillion River, Illinois by Frank C. Baker (1922). Eocene Mollusca, 4 volumes by F. E. Edwards (1848-55). Pliocene, by F.W. Harmer, 8 Nos. 1914-24. Mollusca of the Great Oolite, 3 parts, by J. Morris & J. Lycett, (1850-54). Mollusca of the Chalk, 4 parts, by D. Sharpe (1853-1857).

Kraus Reprint Co.; Route 100; Millwood, New York 10546. Checklist of Hawaiian Land & Frehswater Mollusca by E.L. Caum (1928); A Manual of the Recent and Fossil Marine Pelecypod Mollusks of the Hawaiian Islands by Dall, Bartsch & Rehder (1938); Melanesian Shell Money in Field Museum Collection by Albert B. Lewis (1929); Fossil Marine Mollusks of Oahu by J.M. Ostergaard (1928) and Recent & Fossil Marine Mollusks of Tongtabu (1935).

Larousse & Co., Inc.; 572 5th Ave.; New York, NY 10036. The World of Shells by Robert P. Scase (1975) and The Shell Desk Desk Diary for 1979.

Lee Publications; 105 Suffolk Rd.; Wellesley Hills, Mass. 02181 Handbook for Shell Collectors by W.F. Webb.

New American Library; 1301 Avenue of the Americas; New York, N.Y. 10019. How to Know American Marine Shells by R. Tucker Abbott.

Naturegraph; P.O. Box 1075; Happy Camp, California 96039. Gems of the World Sea Shells by A. Gordon Melvin; Seashore Life of the Pacific Northwest by Lynwood Smith.

Of Sea and Shore Publications; P.O. Box 33; Port Gamble, WA. 98364. A Catalog of Dealers' Prices for Marine Shells, 5th ed. by Tom Rice; What is a shell? by Tom Rice (1972).

Oregon State University Press; P.O. Box 689; Corvallis, Oregon 97330. Fossil Mollusks of Coastal Oregon by Ellen J. Morris

Pergamon Press, Inc.; Maxwell House, Fairview Park; Elmsford, New York 10523. The Biology of the Mollusca by R. D. Purchon, (International Ser. of Monographs on Pure and Applied Bioology, Zoology Div. Vol. 40, 1968).

The Shell Cabinet; P.O. Box 29; Falls Church, Virginia 22046. International Directory of Conchologists, 1978-79, M.E. Young.

Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.; 2 Park Ave.; New York, NY 10016. Seashell Collectors Handbook & Identifier by Sonja B. Murray (1975)

Stanford University Press; Stanford, California 94305. Marine Molluscan Genera of Western North America, An Illustrated Key by A. Myra Keen and Eugene Coan, 2nd edition 1974. Sea Shells of Tropical West America: Marine Mollusks from Baja California to Peru by A, Myra Keen & James H. McLean, 2nd edition, 1971. Murex Shells of the World, An Illustrated Guide to the Muricidae by George E. Radwin and Anthony D'Attilio, 1976. Between Pacific Tides by Edward F. Ricketts & Jack Calvin, 4th (revised by Joel Hedgpeth) edition 1968.

T.F.H. Publications, Inc.; 211 W. Sylvania Ave.; Neptune City, N.J. 07753. Cowries by John Taylor and Jerry G. Walls (1975); Nudibranchs by T.E. Thompson (1976).

Margaret Teskey, C.O.A. member donated four fine books to the cause: The Handbook of Australian Seabirds by Serventy & Warham; Adventures in Marine Collecting by Straughan; The Sea Brings Forth by Rudloe and Caribbean Seashells by Warmke and Abbott.

Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc.; P.O. Drawer F; 28 South Main Street; Rutland, Vermont 05701. Australian Shells by B.R. Wilson & K. Gillet (1972); Florida Marine Shells by Vilas & Vilas (1970); Australian Seashores in Colour by K. Gillet & J. Yaldwyn (1970); Guide to Shell Collecting in the Kwajalein Atoll by Fred B. Brost & Robert D. Coale (1971); Pacific Marine Life: A Survey of Pacific Ocean Invertebrates (1976); Pacific Sea Shells by Spencer W. Tinker (1957); Shell Collecting in Australia by Neville Coleman (1978); Shell Collector's Guide by Ruth Fair (1975); Sea Shell Parade: Fascinating Facts, Pictures and Stories by A. Gordon Melvin (1973); Sea Shells of the World, with Values by A. Gordon Melvin (1972); Sea Shells of Sri Lanka: Including Forms Scattered Throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans by Parakrama Kirtisinghe (1978); Shells of New Guinea and the Central Indo-Pacific by Allan Hinton (1976); New Zealand Seashells in Colour by Penniket and Moon (1970); 1,000 World Sea Shells - Rare to Common: With Values by A. Gordon Melvin & Lorna S. Melvin (1979).

Texas Western Press; The University of Texas; El Paso, TX 79968 Late Quarternary Mollusks of the Rio Grande Valley by A.T. Metcalf (1970); Post Metamorphic Changes in the Vertebrae of the Marbled Salamander by Richard D. Worthington; The Ashmunella rhyssa (Dall) Complex (Gastropoda: Polygyridae) by Edward M. Stern.

University of Arizona Press; Marketing Department; Box 3398; Tucson, Arizona 85722. The Mollusks of the Arid Southwest by Jos. C. Bequaert and Walter B. Miller (1973);

University of Texas Press; P.O. Box 7819; University Station; Austin, Texas 78712. Shells and Shores of Texas by Jean Andrews (1977).

University of Washington Press; Seattle, Washington 98105. Seashore Life of Puget Sound, The Straits of Georgia and the San Juan Archipelago by Eugene N. Kozloff (1973).

Windward Publishing Co.; 105 NE 25th St.; P.O. Box 371005; Miami, Florida 33137. The Shell Book, A Complete Guide to Collecting and Identifying, 2nd edition, by Sandra D. Romashko (1974); Savory Shellsfish of North America by Sandra D. Romashko; Magic of Seashells by Fredlee.

STOLEN SHELL COMMITTEE

At the Sixth Annual C.O.A. Convention a Committee was established to formulate a program to assist shell collectors in recovering stolen shells and shell collections. Due to continuous increases in the value of shells thefts are now becoming an issue for serious consideration. In several instances, rare shells have been stolen in one part of the country and offered for sale to collectors and/or dealers in other parts of the country at greatly discounted prices.

The Committee has devised the following simple measures which you the collector, are advised to take, by way of advance preparation:

1. Color photograph your more valuable shells, showing dorsal and ventral views. If possible, use a close-up lens.

2. Keep accurate records concerning size of each shell in mm., location of any identifying markings, value of shell and a description of any unusual features inherent in the shell.

3. The Committee recommends the purchase of a "Brinks Security Marker", a $3.00 item which is available in most stationery stores. The marking is only visible through the use of special lighting equipment operational in most police department burglary units. Be sure to note where shell is marked and make sure that marking is not in an area where it can be accidentally rubbed off.

If a theft does occur, report it immediately to your local authorities and then contact the Committee Chairperson, Sally Jo Gray, either by phone or by mail (details below). Advise her of the name of the agency to which the theft was reported and the case number assigned. Include all information pertinent to the stolen items, as well as photographs. This material will be documented and kept on file.

COA's first step will be to attempt, wherever possible, to have a description of the stolen shells listed in various shell publications.

Finally, the Committee urges any dealer or individual, who is approached concerning the suspicious purchase of shells, to contact Miss Gray. She, in turn, will provide the name and address of the person from whom the shell was stolen, if the information can be matched to her files, so that the prospective purchaser can make direct contact with the purported owner of the shell or shells.

Through this new central clearing agency, it is hoped that we may assist in facilitating the quick recovery of the stolen material.

Sally Jo Gray Phone: (503) 342-2281
3943 Cornell Way; Eugene, Oregon 94705

A.M.U. / W. S. M. SYMPOSIUM

Papers on any aspect of molluscan life histories will be considered for presentation at a symposium to be held during the joint meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists and the American Malacological Union in Corpus Christi, Texas, 5 - 11 August 1979. Presentations shoule be concerned with an aspect of the reproduction, development, growth, or population dynamics of mollusks. Theoretical papers on the evolution of life history traits of mollusks are also invited. Opportunity for publication of abstracts or full length versions of papers presented at the symposium will be provided. Further information and a Call for Papers is available from:

David R. Lindberg
Center for Coastal Marine Studies, Applied Sciences
University of California
Santa Cruz, California, U.S.A. 95064

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CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN

NUMBER 16

Speaking of Shells

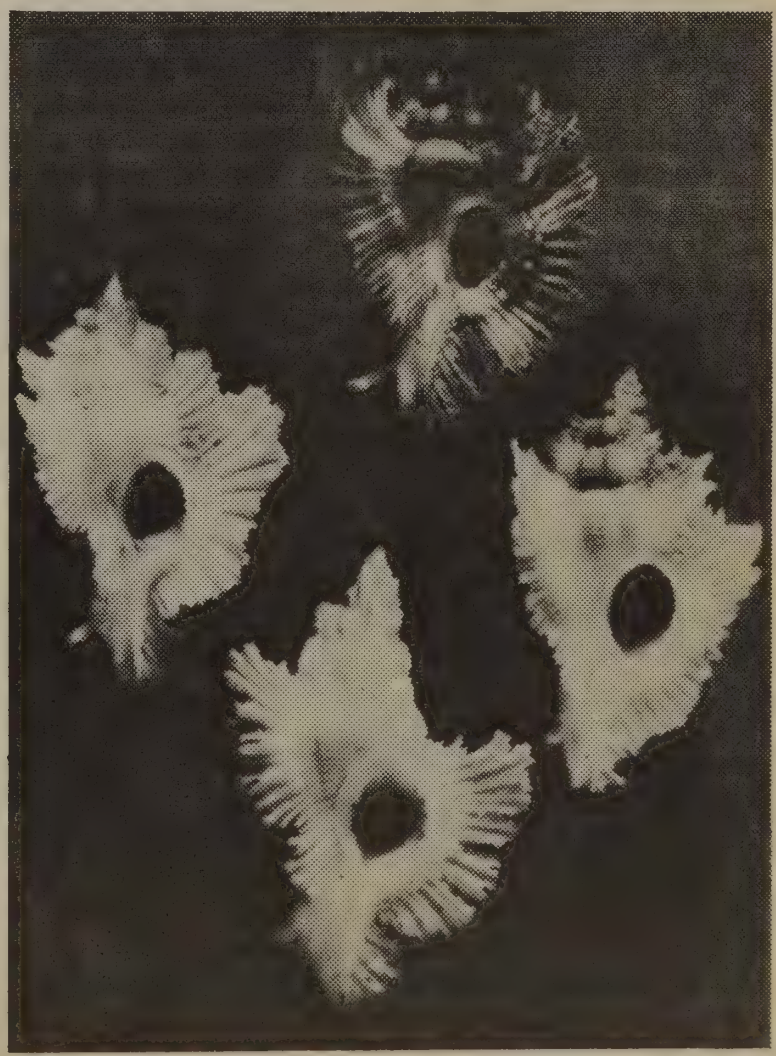
by Bob Janowsky

This article is the first of what is to be an ongoing series in the publication. I would like to use a few lines to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me or are not familiar with my articles which appear in the New York Shell Club Notes, the publication of my "home" club. I am a shell dealer and a specialist in rare species and I am a collector too, with a very strong interest in the Muricidae. Both of the above "occupations" have enabled me to closely examine very many of the rarest and most interesting shells in the world. I intend, in these articles, to share with you my firsthand observations and to acquaint you with some interesting facts about them.

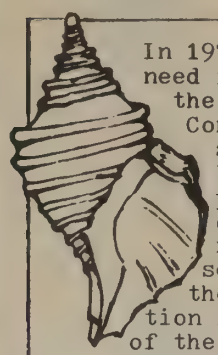
At times, I expect that some of these articles will be of a controversial nature and any opinions that I express in these articles are strictly my own. If one must categorize oneself then I am by nature and by disposition a lumper and a very conservative one at that. Despite my somewhat headstrong characteristics and often preformed opinions I shall welcome counter comments to these articles and will make the column available to anyone wishing to write and offer other points of view. I am of the opinion that conchologically the world today is neither black nor white-I am though not fully certain as to what constitutes grey. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or additional information that you would care to offer about these articles in care of Richard Goldberg, the editor of this publication.

Murex loebbecki Kobelt, 1879

It is amazing how little "real" information one is able to gather about Murex loebbecki, a species which has for almost a hundred years been considered by shell collectors to be the "prize" of one's Murex collection. (con't. on page 6)



Murex loebbecki Kobelt, 1879 - Clockwise from the top: Philippines; Russell Islands; Reunion Island; and Japan. Photograph by Richard Goldberg.



In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, Conchologists of America was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

Conchologists of America

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The Bulletin is an official publication of the Conchologists of America, published quarterly in March, June, September & December.

****We invite you to submit any shell related items or articles for inclusion in the Bulletin. The deadline for material is one month before each issue. Address all Bulletin correspondence to Richard Goldberg, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual(per year) $3.00; Family(receives one Bulletin) $5.00; Overseas $4.00. Send check or money order to the Treasurer (address above).

Editorial

Welcome to a new era for the Bulletin. The radical change is in-line with our growing ranks. The Bulletin is the life line of C.O.A., and we hope to bring you news of our club activities in every issue. Of course we would also like to hear from YOU, our membership and member clubs. Let us know about your shelling activities, recent finds, shell shows, field trips, publications, and any other shell-related items. It's been said before and I'll say it again; There is no Bulletin without YOU!! So let's hear from you.

Another change will be the frequency you'll be receiving the Bulletin. We are now a quarterly publication. Since we only meet once a year, you will be kept informed more often. So good reading and Happy Shelling.

Richard Goldberg

President's Message

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Conchologists of America, I am pleased to welcome you to the C.O.A. If you are not familiar with our club, let me tell you a bit about it. We are young, formed in 1972, by a group that saw the need for a national organization that would benefit amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes beginning and advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers.

We have one annual convention - each year in a different area of the country. This coming year we will meet in Santa Monica, California(see page 3). In the past we have met in Rhode Island, Portland, Virginia Beach, Seattle, Ft. Lauderdale, and in Long Island, New York. Each three to four day convention gives the members an opportunity to meet other collectors with similar interests, see slide presentations on traveling, collecting, cleaning, talks and discussions of various aspects of collecting, book reviews, shell auctions and presentations by authorities in the field of conchology.

We have several projects this year that might concern you. We are sponsoring the C.O.A. Award(see page 7) that is offered at competitive shell shows as a top award for excellence. We have started a "Stolen Shells Information Program." This is designed to help persons who have had shells taken from them(with tips for prevention and identification), and a source for those who have had shells offered to them under suspicious conditions to check with. We are also developing shell programs for shell clubs to utilize for meetings.

We have alot of enthusiasm and ideas, and we would like yours. We need a national organization that would help to coordinate the efforts of local clubs, and help us communicate with one another. We believe that we can provide this service. Welcome!! I think that you will like us!!

Sincerely, Gerrie

Gerrie Walklet
President

Convention '79 — Santa Monica

Shell collectors from around the country will be heading for Santa Monica, California October 10-13, sight of the 1979 Seventh Annual Conchologists of America Convention. Convention Chairperson Ruth Greenberg has informed us that the convention will be held at the Sheraton-Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

Ruth has submitted a tentative agenda for the convention.

Wednesday, Oct. 10: Registration in the morning; 1:30-Welcome members and programs all afternoon.

Thursday, Oct. 11: Programs all day.

Friday, Oct. 12: Field trip to the beach (or if anyone feels they want to go to Disneyland, but they must book this themselves). There will be more details on the field trip in the next issue- Our Convention Issue.

Saturday, Oct. 13: Programs and the Business meeting during the day and the Banquet and Auction in the evening. As of this writing, Ruth was planning on having Sam Hinton from Scripps Oceanography for a guest speaker at the Banquet.

Vice President, Martin Lerner, has been soliciting shells for our auction which is always a super event at the conventions. It is also our major fund-raiser which partially supports the conventions and Bulletin. We hope this will be another record breaking auction as was the auction last year. Bill Bledsoe is receiving and cataloguing auction donations. You can send your donation to Bill at: 352 Bon Hill Road, Los Angeles, CA., 90049.

Another highlight that extends throughout the convention is the Book Give-Away. Publishers of shell books throughout the world have donated books to be given as door-prizes during the four day convention. Wayne Stevens has dutifully chaired this committee in the past, as he will this year too.

Other events still being planned include a "Dealer's Browse," where shell dealers from around the country will be showing and selling shells during specific times each day. We are hoping that this will keep full attendence during the programs and give everyone a chance to see the dealer's wares. Bill Bledsoe has offered to have a session at his home, which will give you an opportunity to view his magnificent collection, beautifully displayed in glass cases- Plus! A photographic session . He will have camera, lights, backgrounds and more set-up for any member to photograph their favorite shell they brought with them. If you don't know how, Bill will show you! There will be a nominal charge for prints, which Bill will mail to you.

The Santa Barbara Shell Club has decided to coinside its Shell Show with the C.O.A. convention this year. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14th. If enough people are interested, Ruth plans to charter a bus or you can drive up(about a two hour drive by car from the Miramar). Maybe you'll want to stay over a few more days and enjoy a bit more of California! There is also regular bus service between Santa Monica and Santa Barbara.

The Miramar Hotel is located only 20 minutes from the Los Angeles airport. It overlooks the Pacific Ocean and is nearby to many additional activities. The rooms are spacious and attractive. Rates run $40-48 per day, plus 6% tax. The hotel has an outdoor pool, restaurant, cafe, cocktail lounge, gift shop, newsstand, airline offices, car rental and travel desk. The Miramar is also one block from the unique Santa Monica shopping district.

COMPLETE DETAILS AND RESERVATION FORMS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: look for it in late August.

THE SIXTH ANNUA
WESTBURY, LONG IS

Photo Legend: 1. Auction Night 2. Dinner at local Chinese restaurant-John Paduano, Wayne Stevens, Joy Nilson, and Vivian Mestey 3. Counter clockwise from right-Bill Old, Dottie Janowsky, Phil Clover, Bill Bledsoe, Gerrie Walklet, Kathe Daniels(hidden by her husband) 4. Group Photo 5. Mary Ruth Foglino-V.P. of the Long Island Shell Club and Dr. William K. Emerson-American Museum of

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C.O.A. CONVENTION AND, SEPT., 1978 PHOTO RECAP

Natural History, N.Y. 6. Margaret Teskey, Vivian Mestey, and Marc Goldberg at the Banquet 7. Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, Martin Lerner-Convention Chairman, and S. Peter Dance 8. Victor Dan and Ruth Greenberg 9. Facing camera from left- Wayne Stevens, Dick Forbush, and Phil Clover at the Banquet. This is just a small look at a fun-filled four days of good friends and good times.
ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD GOLDBERG

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9

Speaking of Shells

(con't. from page 1)

You can look in the two monographs published on the Muricids in 1976 and find that the only area where this species has been found is "Oceano Indochinensis (the type locality given by Kobelt), referred to as southeastern Japan" by Radwin and D'Atillio and "the China Sea" by Ruth Fair.

This species belongs to the genus Pterynotus and is in most instances a very typical member of this group. It has the three characteristic broad and sculptured varices which are the "trademark" of this genus. It is a peculiarity of the members of this genus that many of them do seem to occur only in very small geographical areas. To date we can establish reliable records for Pterynotus bednalli Brazier, 1878 only from northwest Australia and for Pterynotus phyllopterus Lamarck, 1822 only from the Islands of the French Caribbean.

I was therefore quite surprised to find several years ago that specimens of Murex loebbecki had been found in fishnets set in very deep water off Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean. Over the years I was fortunate enough to acquire at various times perhaps a dozen specimens from this area and from among these was able to make observations on the operculum of this species and to find one specimen in which the soft parts were intact enough to permit an extraction of the radula. All of the specimens that I have seen from Reunion have been of a uniformly orange/peach color and have had a pink parietal shield. Generally all of these specimens have less flaring development of their varices and have coarser, more deeply channeled sculpture than have their counterparts from the Pacific. Looking at the illustration, the specimen at the bottom of the photograph is a 57mm specimen taken at approximately 450 meters depth off Reunion Island. The specimen at the left is from off Kashiwa-jima, Kochi Pref., Japan collected in coral nets(usually set at 150-200 meters) in 1962. It measures 54mm length and is a somewhat more delicate peach color than the Reunion specimen. Its shape, sculpture and varices are quite typical of other specimens collected from this area of the world.

About two years ago I was very surprised to be sent a specimen of what is quite clearly a slightly different form of Murex loebbecki which was collected from a depth of approximately 200 meters off the Russel Islands, a part of the Solomon Island group. This specimen, illustrated to the right of the photograph, measures 53mm in length. I have been able to observe only a few additional specimens from this area but they appear consistant to one another and different from the two cited above in their color which is cream/pink, their parietal shield which is white and their varices which are not as widely flared from the body whorl. One will notice too that the varices of the specimens from the Indian Ocean and from Japan have a "pinched" appearance. That is, the varix flares widely around the body whorl, constricts narrowly towards the opening in the aperture of the siphonal canal and then flares again along the length of the canal. In the Russell Island specimens the varix tends to be developed continuously, and uninterruptedly flared until almost the tip of the siphonal tube.

In the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to examine three specimens of Murex loebbecki that were collected in nets set at approximately 200 meters off Davao in the southern Philippines. Illustrated at the top of the plate is an extremely beautiful 52mm specimen. It is light cream/brown in color and is accentuated by darker stripes crossing the body whorl. All three of the specimens from this area have been nothing short of spectacular in their varices. The specimens from this area seem to bear a close affinity to those from the Solomons in that they too possess a white parietal shield and lack the constricted varices of the "typical"(i.e. familiar) specimens of Murex loebbecki. I have also seen and heard of several specimens of Murex loebbecki which were collected off Cebu City in the northern Philippines which exhibit all of the characteristics of the specimens that come from Japan.

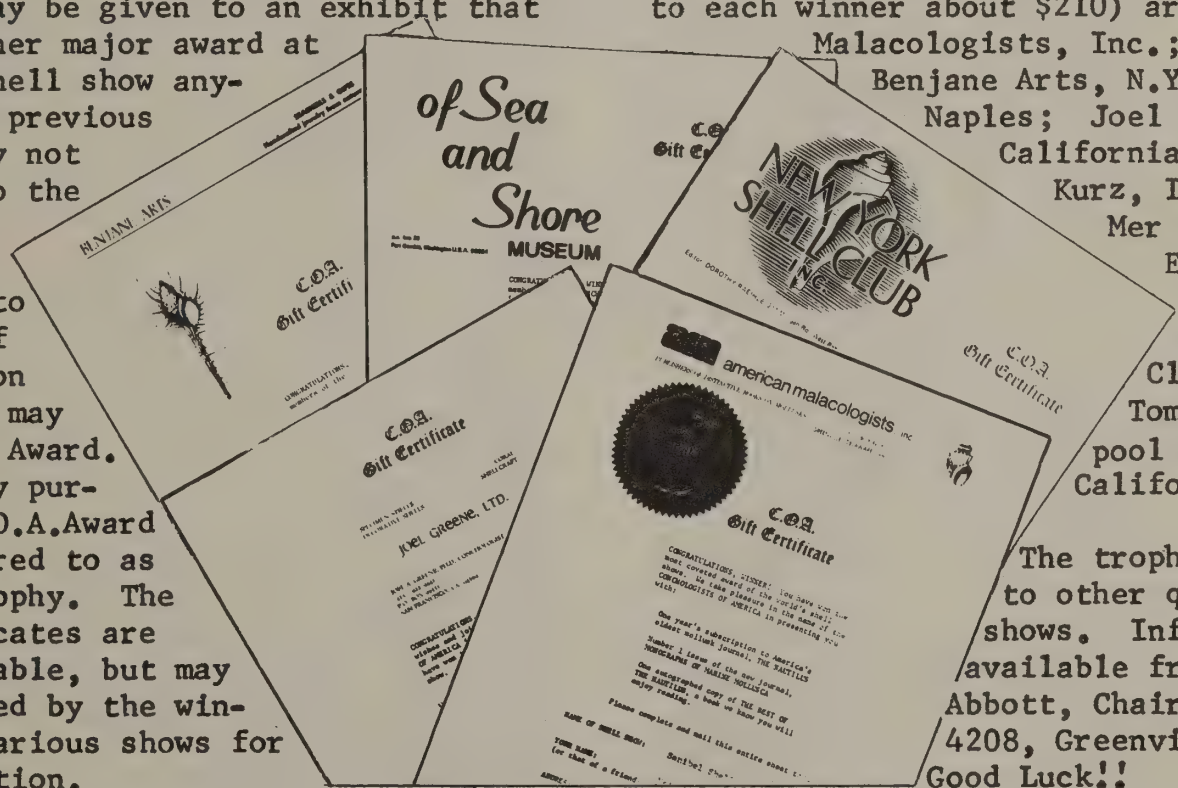
The limited observations of the material that I have been able to make lead me to believe that there are at least three forms of this species; an Indian Ocean form as typified by the specimens from Reunion, a Northern Pacific form typified by the specimens from Japan and the Northern Philippines, and Central Pacific form typified by the specimens from the Southern Philippines and from the Russell Islands. That all of these forms represent a single species is in my mind irrefutable.

(con't. on page 7)

The Grand Trophy

Exhibitors in leading shell shows have been setting their sights on the new top trophy recently inaugurated by the C.O.A. Unlike other trophies, this unique award is sponsored by the community of American amateur and private collectors for the encouragment of both the hobby and science of conchology. In addition, valuable certificates good for shells, books, and subscriptions to both popular and scientific shell journals come with the top award.

The C.O.A. Award is given at a shell show by the official judges to the most outstanding exhibit or to one which shows particluar excellence. It should not be given to an exhibit receiving another major award at the same show during the same year, much as the Smithsonian or American Museum Award. It may be given to an exhibit that has won another major award at a previous shell show anywhere or any previous year. It may not be awarded to the same exhibit again. There is no limit to the number of times a person (or persons) may win a C.O.A. Award. For publicity purposes the C.O.A.Award may be referred to as the Grand Trophy. The gift certificates are not transferable, but may be accumulated by the winner during various shows for later redemption.



The Shell Show Award Committee includes: R. Tucker Abbott, Chairman; William Bledsoe; Robert Janowsky; William E. Old; and Margaret Teskey.

The shows giving the C.O.A. Award in 1979 are: Palm Beach County Shell Show(Feb. 16-18); Astronaut Trail Shell Show(Jan.19-21); Broward County Shell Show(Feb. 2-4); Naples Shell Show(Feb. 16-18); British Shell Collectors Club(London-April 1979); Jacksonville Shell Show(July 28-29); Sanibel Shell Fair(March 1-4); Central Florida Shell Show(Orlando-March 9-11); Oregon Shell Show(June 1979); Midwest Regional Shell Show(Indianapolis-Aug. 18-19); Greater St. Louis Shell Show(Spring 1980); Hawaiian(HMS)Shell Show(Sept. 23-30); and the Georgia Shell Show(March 1980).

The dealers and publishers contributing prizes of shells and/or books(total worth to each winner about $210) are: American Malacologists, Inc.; Kirk Anders; Benjane Arts, N.Y.; Blue Mussel, Naples; Joel Greene Ltd., California; Richard M. Kurz, Inc.; Mal de Mer Enterprises; Elsie Malone, Sanibel; the New York Shell Club(Notes); Tom Rice; Tidepool Galleries, California.

The trophy is available to other qualifying shell shows. Information is available from R. Tucker Abbott, Chairman, P.O. Box 4208, Greenville, DE, 19807. Good Luck!!

Speaking of Shells

(con't. from page 6)

I have heard that there are some persons in the Philippines who are anxious to name, or see named, the very attractive form from Davao as a new species. I suspect that there is more a degree of the profit motive behind this movement than there is a desire to increase knowledge of speciation, and would only be a case of "guilding the lily," since Murex loebbecki is still one of the most attractive and desirable species of its family.

Collecting Mollusks For The Aquaria

(con't. from page 8)

If you are hoping to observe reproduction, and thus want to collect both sexes, remember that in many gastropod species the female is more rotund than a male of the same height.

Incidentally, Melongena and Fasciolaria are NOT recommended for aquaria holding mixed species, as they are entirely too predatory.

Collecting Mollusks For The Aquaria

by Dorothy Raeihle

In our experience, species living in the intertidal zone or in very shallow water have adapted best to our home aquaria; they have already established a tolerance to changes in temperature, light, and, very often, salinity. This is not to say that species found in deeper water would not survive, but it is to caution that their needs of a constant coolish temperature and proper degree of aeration should be considered.

If you want to get your mollusks home alive and in good shape, start caring for them in the field. Please, do NOT use a plastic bag as a collecting bag, because they will fall to the bottom and be crowded and smothered by the collapsing plastic-- an entirely unnatural situation. Do use pails or other wide containers, non-metal, with enough water to easily cover the mollusks; shallow water with a large area of surface exposed to the air will permit a natural aeration. (NEVER use deep water in the pails unless you are using a battery-operated air pump such as fishermen use to keep minnows and shrimp alive. These small pumps are available in tackle shops.)

Try to pick up a sample of the mollusks' own station with them: a handful or so of sand with the sand dwellers; a bit of the vegetation on which you found the herbivore; a piece of old coral for the rock dwellers to find and cling to-- and look for a large chiton or limpet sitting on a small stone and take stone and all rather than forcing (and injuring) the animal from a too-big rock. Note whether they are feeding and if so take samples; if they are not feeding, guess. If you determine their natural food it will help you when you feed them in captivity. Try not to collect fouling organisms along with the things you take as possible food. Later, as you transfer the mollusks to other containers with clean water, examine the material and discard questionable matter.

Bringing them home, do your best to accommodate the mollusks with shallow water with a large surface area of water exposed to the air (three to four times the volume of air to water is a good ratio). A great carrier is a tote bag which can accommodate plastic containers such as the usually oblong vegetable crispers with snug-fitting lids. They are available in various sizes; select them according to the size(s) of your mollusks. Containers should be scalded and aired before use. Line the tote bag with one big plastic bag, set the containers of mollusks in, braced so they won't upset, and if you're travelling by air they will do just fine, hand-carried, for the duration of your trip. If you are travelling by car and have to be on the road a few days, take along enough clean sea water to be able to change the water in the travel aquaria when it seems advisable. If you are carrying "exotics" it is a good idea to carry an air pump, too. A battery pump can be clipped on the top edge of the tote bag during the day and/or used when you stop for overnight. You will soon be able to judge if the mollusk has been gasping for the aeration.

Need an emergency container? Glass is, of course, ideal, but it seems to happen that when you need one you find only such shapes as a tall olive or mayonnaise jar. Don't give up. Fill the jar about one-quarter full of sea water, tilt, slide in your creatures gently, cap tightly, then lay the jar on its side and carry it that way. This position will allow a good surface expanse for natural aeration. (Better put the jar in a plastic bag.)

The chief causes for loss of living specimens seems to be smothering -- either by plastic bags, overcrowding, too deep unaerated water, fouling and overheating. Aeration has here been discussed; fouling is obvious to sight or smell -- change the water. Too many specimens have been lost from overheating in the field: Whenever possible, use a white or light-colored pail which reflects the light and avoids much heat buildup. If it is very hot, throw a white cloth over the pail. If you have material in a small pail, you might set it in a larger pail, double boiler style, with cool changes of water in the larger, bottom pail. And don't leave the pails in a hot car; set them in the shade under the car when you make a stop of any duration.

Occasionally you may collect a specimen that continues to flail around instead of settling down and clinging. You might just as well return that specimen to its habitat as its stress would disturb the whole aquarium. Then you might find both a carnivore and its natural prey together in your pail. If the carnivoure feeds in this strange environment it is a good bet that it will adapt to the aquarium; the same goes for a herbivore that starts to graze even before you leave the beach.

(con't. on page 7)

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN

NUMBER 17

CONVENTION ISSUE SANTA MONICA '79

The 1979 Convention of the Conchologist of America, hosted by the new Los Angeles Chapter of C.O.A., will be held at the Miramar Sheraton Hotel, Santa Monica, California, October 10 through October 13.

Registration is Wednesday morning, October 10, and the program starts Wednesday afternoon. That evening the traditional get-acquainted cocktail party tops off the first day. There will be free time to get settled, visit friends, and purchase specimens from dealer members.

Thursday morning is devoted to meetings and programs. Then, weather permitting, a field trip to Malibu, where a picnic lunch precedes a shell-collecting "Treasure Hunt." Since California law prohibits collection of live mollusks(except for specified food items such as abalone, clams, etc.) within 1000 feet of the shore, you will be searching for fine West Coast specimen shells which the members of Los Angeles C.O.A. have provided for you. A ¼ mile of beautiful private beach will have been "salted" with treasures for you to find. Dinner will be available at the Whale Watch Restaurant.

Friday morning presentations and scheduled talks continue. The afternoon provides a very unusual opportunity for shell photography. Bill Bledsoe, past president, will preside and photography apparatus will be set up at the Miramar. Interested members should bring to the convention one shell of their choice between one to three inches in length. You will set it up, and photograph it on a 35mm slide. Bill will charge $1.00 for the film, processing, and mailing costs to send the slide to you.

Friday evening you'll experience our Annual Shell Auction. Marty Lerner, auction chairman, has contacted over 200 worldwide shell dealers for specimen contributions, and we hope all of our members will also contribute specimens as they have done so generously in the past. The C.O.A. Auction is a lively, exciting, and very rewarding event. You shouldn't miss it! Donations

(con't. on page 5)

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, Conchologists of America was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

Conchologists of America

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Vice Pres.: Martin Lerner, 64 Thompson Ave., Oceanside, New York, 11572

Secretary: Richard W. Forbush, 17598 Millbrook Drive, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, 44022

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Co-Editor: Irene Ross

Design Director: Marc Goldberg

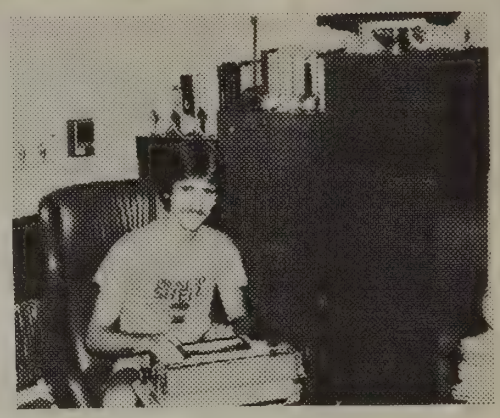
The Bulletin is an official publication of the Conchologists of America, published quarterly in March, June, September & December.

****We invite you to submit any shell related items or articles for inclusion in the Bulletin. The deadline for material is one month before each issue. Address all Bulletin correspondence to Richard Goldberg, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual(per year) $3.00; Family(receives one Bulletin) $5.00; Overseas $4.00. Send check or money order to the Treasurer (address above).

Irene



Richie

Marc

President's Message

Dear Members,

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Seventh Annual C.O.A. Convention in Santa Monica.

The programs at this convention will feature lectures, slides and films on shell collecting in all areas of the world; shell identification by some of the best known U. S. authorities; habits of mollusks; methods of collecting; outstanding shell collections and related topics. You will have a chance to question the experts as well as to get to know them in a social situation. We will have a field trip, a shell auction, and a gala banquet.

Please join us! See you in Santa Monica in October!

Sincerely,

Gerrie

Editorial

It's convention time again, and I hope to see many of you in Santa Monica. We thank you for the many good reactions to our first issue editing the Bulletin. We also look forward to your suggestions, comments and opinions for the "Feed-Back" column, a regular feature of the Bulletin. "C.O.A. Grand Trophy Winners" will also be a regular feature, and if you've won a C.O.A. Award or know of someone who has, get in contact with us and tell us about the exhibit. Pictures or slides of the winner/s or exhibit are also suggested. This is your chance to show the membership your Grand Trophy-winning display!

The convention issue is packjammed with interesting shell information and club news, so read on and Happy Shelling...

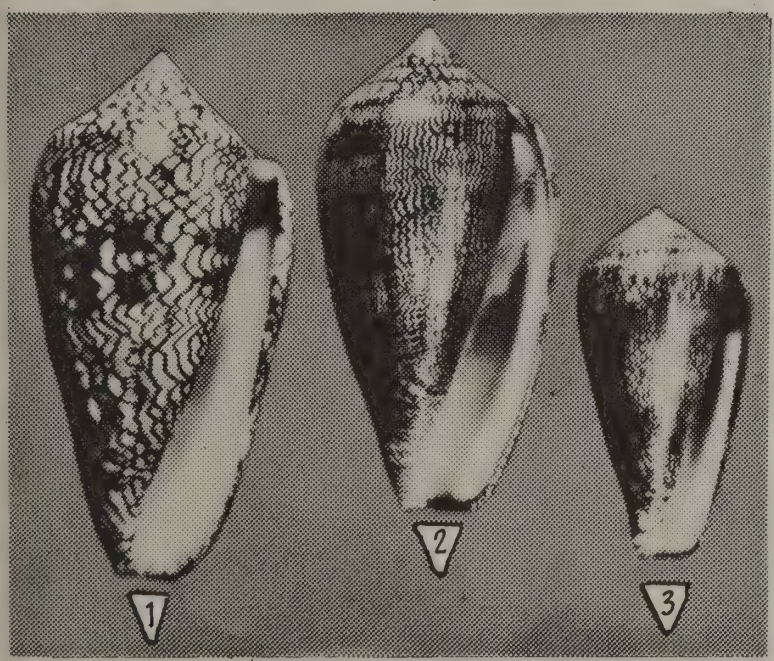
Richie

Speaking of Shells

A Trio of Textiles

by Bob Janowsky

I am sure almost everyone reading this is thoroughly familiar with *Conus textile* Linne, 1758. This shell with its attractive pattern, bright colors and general ease of availability, have for years made the species a "staple stock item" of gift and shell shops everywhere. Far less, though, is known about the numerous varietal forms that occur, and most are seen only infrequently in collections. I'll examine, in greater detail, three quite distinct forms of *Conus textile* and will point out the various characteristics of each that constitute the form. By coincidence (by my design actually) all three of these forms have names that begin with the letter "e", *Conus eumitus* Tomlin 1926, *Conus euetrios* Sowerby 1882, and *Conus elisae* Kiener 1845.



1. Conus euetrios Sowerby,1882—Sidwane Bank off Inhaca Island, Mozambique—in collection of Mr. N. Lagane, Surenes, France;
2. Conus eumitus Tomlin, 1926—Zavora Reef, Inhanbone, South Mozambique—in collection of Mr. R. Prince, Portland, Oregon;
3. Conus elisae Kiener, 1845—Burna Field, Kauai Island, Hawaii—in the inventory of Mal de Mer. Photo by Bob Janowsky.

Let me clearly state that I do not consider any of the above to be valid bioliogical species; I have not yet abandoned my self-proclaimed "lumperistic" shell philosophy. I do, though, consider these shells to be separate and readily recognizable forms of the species *Conus textile*, and I consider them equally important from a shell collector's point of view as a "valid" species. Shells do not carry the seal of approval of the Bureau of Standards and one man's species is another man's synonym. The three forms above have, of course been named as full species by their individual authors.

That these forms are little understood is evident in that I consider all three to be forms of *Conus textile*. Wagner and Abbott in their "Standard Catalogue of Shells" consider *Conus elisae* a full species, *Conus euetrios* a form of *C. textile* or *C. abbas* Hwass 1792 and *C. eumitus* a subspecies of *C. textile*. Jerry Walls on the other hand in his "Cone Shells" treats *C. elisae* as a synonym of *C. pennaceus* Born 1778, *C. euetrios* as a synonym of *C. abbas* and *C.eumitus* as a synonym of *C. textile*. It is possible too by diligent search of the literature to produce evidence for all, none or some of the above to be species, forms, subspecies or synonyms of almost any of the tent cones that one cares to name. At any rate, below are illustrations of specimens and notation of characteristics which I think constitute these forms; as always, I am open to hear your opinions about them.

First is *Conus eumitus* Tomlin 1926. The illustrated specimen measures 50.5mm in length and was collected in November 1978 at Zavora Reef, Inhambane, South Mozambique. The coloration of this form is quite atypical of the color of "normal" *Conus textile*. The body whorl is basically light red/brown in color and it is marked by numerous fine dark zigzag lines on its vertical plane. There are two broad bands on the body and a third somewhat thinner band just below the shoulder that are blue/grey in color. The shoulder is more rounded than in typical-*textile* and almost no suture is present; the body whorl is slightly inflated below the shoulder. The shoulder and previous whorls on the spire are marked by dark zigzag lines that are a bit thicker than those on the body whorl. The nucleus and earliest whorls are pink, and the aperture and the interior of the shell are blue/white in color. This form seems to be restricted to the Southwest Indian Ocean and is very rarely collected.

Conus euetrios Sowerby 1882 seems to come from approximately the same geographic area as the proceeding form but differs from it(and *C. textile*) in several respects. The illustrated specimen is 56.7mm in length and was collected at the Sidwane Bank off In-

(con't. on page 4)

Speaking of Shells (con't.)

haca Island, in relatively shallow water under rocks in December 1978. The color of the body whorl is dark red/brown but this color is clearly visible only in the two indistinctly defined central bands that are girdled by thin black lines. The most striking feature of this form may be its overlapping, scale-like tent pattern of blue/white color of irregular size which are defined by irregularly spaced and irregular thick dark bands which run lengthwise over the body, shoulder and early whorls. The nucleus and early whorls are pink as in the previous form(and as in most but not all *C. textile*). The remainder of the spire is red/brown and is marked by irregular bands and tents and the body whorl is slightly more inflated below the shoulder than it is in *C. eumitus*. A shallow channeled suture is present just above the shoulder and below the previous whorl. The aperture and the interior of the shell are opaque blue/white. I have seen a great number of specimens of this form than I have of *C. eumitus*, but it is an extremely attractive form and one that is a rarity in its own right. The fine scale-like tents of this form have probably led to confusion of this form with *C. abbas*, a species that does have the same type of patterning, but *C. abbas* does have a more reticulated appearance and more uniformity of tent size than does *C. euetrios*.

Conus elisae is quite unlike the other two specimens and again quite unlike what is considered to be typical *C. textile*. The illustrated specimen is 29.6mm in length and was collected in April 1979 at Burna Field, Kauai Island, Hawaii at 1 meter on sand under a large boulder; this form seems to be endemic to the Hawaiian Islands, and specimens are almost always far smaller than *C. textile*. The body whorl is far less inflated in shape that *C. textile*, *C. eumitus* or *C. euetrios*. The overall color of this shell ranges from dark to light red/brown with the darkest color generally at the "leading" edge of the lip. The color is most distinct in two well defined bands that circle the body whorl. This form is otherwise ornamented by numerous small tent-like patterns that are separated(i.e. they do not overlap as in the proceeding forms). Also there are no dark vertical lines or bands separating the tents as in the other two and in *C. textile*. The spire has the same color and pattern as the body but the nucleus(which is much more prominent) and the earliest whorls are white rather than pink. I have though on occassion gone through a mixed lot of typical *C. textile* from Taiwan and the Philippines and found some with white apex and early whorls, too, so I don't think this is more than another variable characteristic of the shell. The shoulder is far less distinct than in the other forms discussed but a proportionately broad suture is present; aperture and interior are also opaque blue/white. I believe this form is a bit less rare than the two mentioned before but it is very unusual to find specimens of *C. elisae* in what I consider to be cabinet specimen grade.

I've now examined and discussed three quite different shells all of which I consider to be forms of the same species, and which in its typical form is in many respects different from these three. I think though if we consider that there is a vast geographical separation between *C. euetrios and C. eumitus* on the one hand and *C. elisae* on the other hand, the picture will begin to make a bit more sense. It is not at all uncommon for any shells from the extremes of its geographical range to differ considerably from the same shell from the center of its distribution. Whether genetic or environmental conditions are the cause of this(or most probably some combination of both are the culprit) is not the topic for discussion here. It is a topic that is fascinating and one that I do not expect to ever see "solved" just as I do not ever expect to have a 100% true definition of what constitutes a "species." At this point, the problems posed by these questions are almost more in the art of philosophy than they are in the realm of science. But they are fascinating questions, ones that will continue to gnaw and nag at us for a long time to come. Perhaps it would be best never to resolve these problems-to reduce conchology to the basis of "true" answers would be(for me) a considerable loss of its charm.

Photo by Richard Goldberg

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

Advance Reservation Form:
Send to—Miramar/Sheraton Hotel
1133 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA., 90403

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION:

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Address _____

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The MIRAMAR-SHERATON HOTEL is pleased to acknowledge your request for the following accommodations:

☐ **Single** ☐ **Twin** ☐ **Suite** **Rate: $**

Convention: CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA CONFERENCE

Date: October 10, 1979

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION:

CONVENTION CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA CONFERENCE

Date: October 10-14. 1979

Your Name: (1) _____

Address _____

City & State: _____

Sharing Room With: (2) _____

(3) _____

PLEASE CHECK RATE AND Type of Accommodations Requested

☐ Single $40.00

☐ Twin/Double $48.00

☐ Triples

☐ Suite-Single $65.00

Suite-Double $75.00

☐ Rollaways $6.00

Arrival after 6 PM requires a one night deposit. (Rate does not include 6% tax)

HOTEL: **MIRAMAR-SHERATON**—Reservations accepted on availability within 14 days of meeting.

NAME Last	First	Initial	Arrival Date:	# Nights	Arr. Time

C.O.A. CONVENTION 1979

Clip and Mail With Haste

IMPORTANT: Please fill out and send back to Ruth Greenberg, Convention Chairman, 22762 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA., 90265. RETURN THIS WHETHER YOU HAVE OR INTEND TO REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION -- HURRY!

_____ *will be*
(name)
participating in the following activities during the Santa Monica Convention:

BANQUET: _____
FIELD TRIP: _____
BUS TRIP TO SANTA BARBARA SHELL SHOW ON SUNDAY: _____ *
PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION: _____

THANK YOU!

*There will be a nominal charge for the bus ride.

Clip and Mail With Haste

C.O.A. REGISTRATION FORM

October 10-13, 1979

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

No. IN PARTY _____ *WILL ARRIVE OCTOBER* _____

REGISTRATION FEE: $10.00 per person(Payable to Conchologists of America)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

MAIL TO: Ruth & Jan Greenberg
22762 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA., 90265

Please mail the enclosed advance-reservation form directly to the hotel, and the C.O.A. registration form to us.

SANTA MONICA

Feed-Back

Dear C.O.A. Officers and Awards Committee,

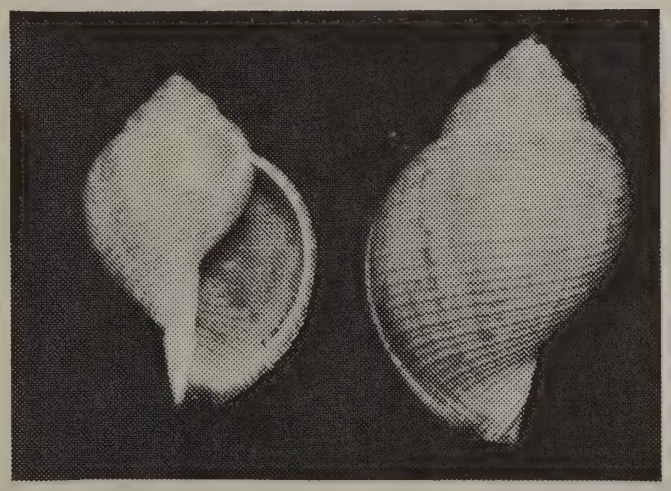
The CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA trophy awarded at the OREGON SOCIETY OF CONCHOLOGY SHELL SHOW will, we are happy to report, share a place of honor in our shell room. We express our thanks.

To the dealers and publishers who, as a part of the C.O.A. Award, generously added their share in the way of gifts we sincerely hope that their generosity will be amply rewarded in the forms of both future business and as participants in the publicity that the several C.O.A. Awards will receive.

Best Regards,

R. Wayne and Marjorie Stevens

New Zealand Tonnidae (con't.)



Eudolium pyriforme (Sowerby, 1914)

Eudolium pyriforme (Sowerby 1914)

Specimens of this shell have been found in northern New Zealand waters in live condition.

Around Japan it is not uncommon, but to the south of the Japanese Islands the occurrences are infrequent. It has been dredged off the coast of New South Wales; I am not aware of it appearing at any other locations on the east Australian coast.

Convention '79 (con't.)

should be sent before October 1st to William Bledsoe, C.O.A. Convention, 352 Bonhill Road, Los Angeles, CA., 90049.

Saturday morning the program continues; Saturday afternoon is the Annual Business Meeting. The grand finale is the Saturday Night Banquet. Sam Hinton, University of California, San Diego; author of "Sea Shore Life of Southern California," is our guest speaker. For those of you who know Sam as a talented Folk Singer, he has promised to bring his guitar! You also won't want to miss the "Style Show" where our members will show us the way shell collectors dress in their part of the country -- guaranteed to be unique!

The official conclusion of the convention is Saturday night. However, for those who wish to stay an extra day, Sunday offers an added attraction. The Santa Barbara Malacological Society, Inc. has thoughtfully scheduled their bi-annual shell show to coincide with C.O.A. A bus will be available to Santa Barbara(please see coupon in this issue) so you may view West Coast collections of prize winning local and world-wide shells. The shell show will be held at the Earl Warren Fair Grounds in conjunction with the Koi Show(large colorful fish).

Space will be reserved at the Miramar Sheraton Hotel for the four day period of the convention. Out of state members who want to spend a few extra days enjoying the beauty of California may arrange accomodations for a longer period if they contact the hotel well in advance.

Time for presentations is limited so if you wish to give a talk, illustrated with slides or movies, please send us a resume of the talk, the amount of time, and the facilities needed as soon as possible.

Throughout the convention and due to the efforts of R. Wayne Stevens, dozens of new shell books donated by their publishers will be given as door prizes. Remember however, you have to be there to be lucky.

If you have never attended a C.O.A. Convention, this is the year for a great first time experience...and those who have been with us for the seven years since the founding of C.O.A. in 1972 certainly won't want to miss this one.

We look forward to welcoming you in Santa Monica, California.

Sincerely,

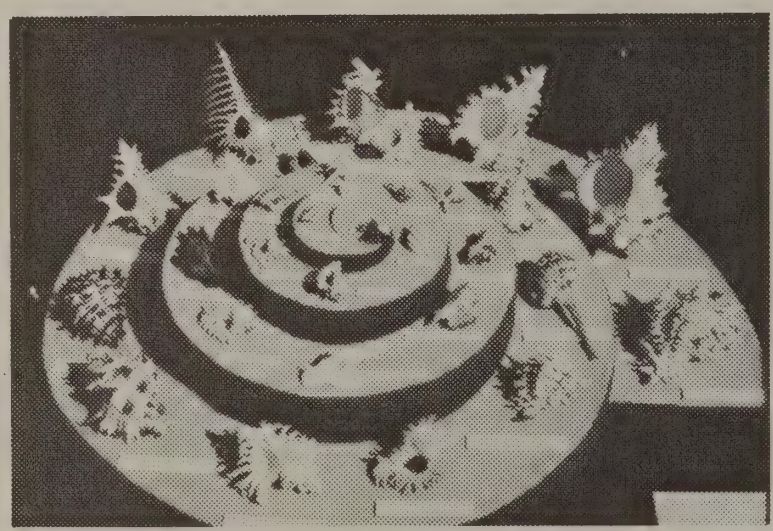
Ruth & Jan Greenberg

C.O.A. GRAND TRO

Gene Everson won at the Astronaut Trail Show for "Seashells of the Americas"

Astronaut Trail

Gene Everson of Ft. Lauderdale has the proud distinction of being the first recipient of the C.O.A. Award, presented at the ASTRONAUT TRAIL SHELL SHOW, January 19-21. Gene's exhibit was entitled "Seashells of the Americas," and contained many self-collected shells. Gene, a past president of the Broward Shell Club, is a National Airlines pilot which has allowed him to travel extensively in his pursuit of the shell. Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, chairman of the C.O.A. Awards Committee, was a judge at this show.



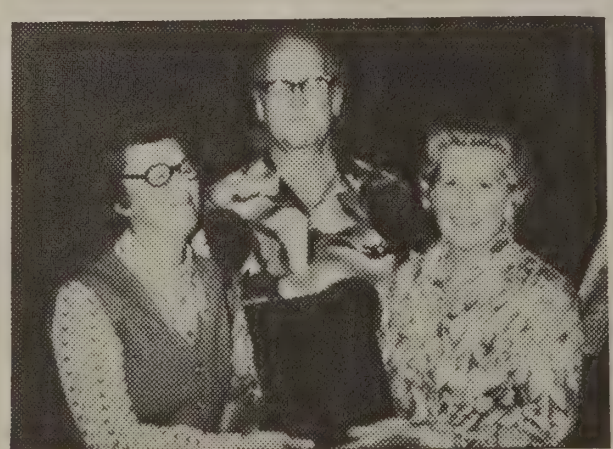
Peter Sheasby's Spiral of Murex, winner at the British Show

British Shell Collectors

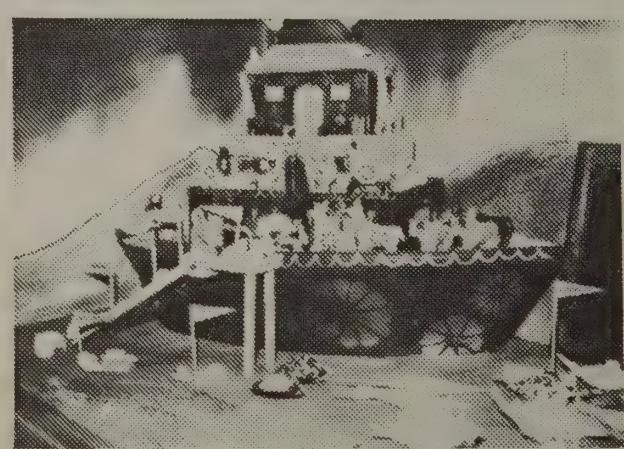
Peter Sheasby of Banbury, England won the C.O.A. Grand Trophy at the BRITISH SHELL COLLECTORS CLUB SHELL SHOW held April 1979 in London. His display of *Murex* shells was entered in the "Visual Beauty-Shape" category. The *Murex* were displayed on a spiral "Shell-Shaped" stand and ranged from large species at the bottom outside of the stand, up to small species at the top center. The BRITISH SHELL COLLECTORS CLUB is the only overseas club participating in the C.O.A. Grand Trophy Award at this time.

Broward County

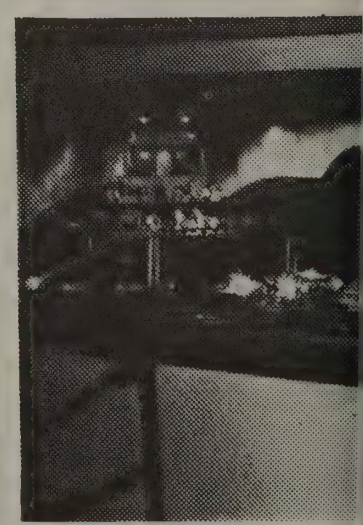
Violet and Charles Hertweck won the C.O.A. Grand Trophy for their exhibit of *PECTINIDAE* at the BROWARD COUNTY SHELL SHOW. It encompassed 14 cases and was entered in the One Family category. The BROWARD SHELL



Violet and Charles Hertwick, winners at the Broward Show, for Pectens



The Ark



Majorie and Wayne S
at Oregon fo

HY WINNERS, 1979

SHOW is held the first weekend in February and the 1980 show dates are set for February 1,2, and 3. The show will be held at the Pompano Recreation Center, Pompano Beach, Florida. For information write the BROWARD SHELL CLUB, P.O. Box 10374, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33305.

Central Florida

Jim and Bobbi Cordy, winners of the C.O.A. Award at the CENTRAL FLORIDA SHELL SHOW, exhibited "Self-Collected Marine Mollusks of the California, Panamic and Caribbean Provinces." The show was held from March 9-11. Jim and Bobbi are from Merritt Island, Florida, and Bobbi was the chairman of the ASTRONAUT TRAIL SHELL SHOW.

Jim and Bobbi Cordy proudly display their Grand Trophy and ribbons, won at the Central Florida Show

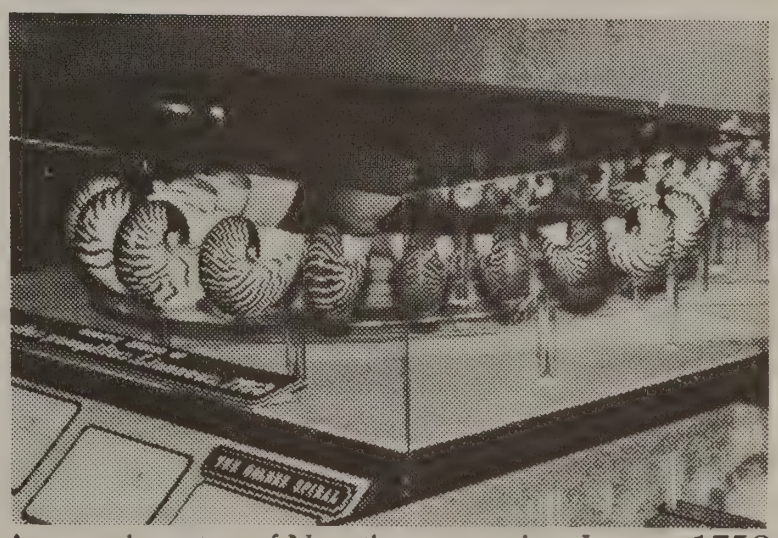
Jacksonville

Winners at the JACKSONVILLE SHELL SHOW were Margaret and Archie L. Jones of Miami, for their exhibit of *Liguus* Tree Snails. The JACKSONVILLE SHOW was held on July 28 and 29.

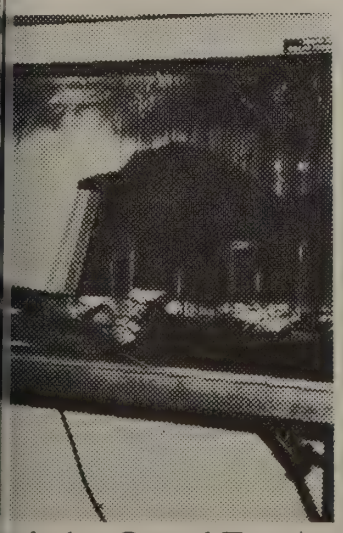
Naples

Chip and Edie Chippeaux won the C.O.A. Grand Trophy at the NAPLES SHELL SHOW for their exhibit of the Family *STROMBIDAE*. It consisted of most of the species in the family with the exception of six or seven of the hard-to-get species. The exhibit was displayed scientifically in 11 cases with a frontage of about 20 feet. The family was

(con't. on page 8)



A growth series of Nautilus pompilius Linne, 1758, part of Neil Hepler's exhibit



ok the Grand Trophy
lical Theme

The Bible

Sanibel's winner, Neil Hepler with "The Chambered Nautilus"

Grand Trophy Winners (con't.)

broken down by genus and species. Each species was labeled showing its name, author and date, with locality where the species was found. In some instances species were shown with color forms, variance of forms from different localities, and irregular forms. The NAPLES SHOW was held from February 16-18.

Chip and Edie first became interested in shells in 1955; Chip was in the military and he and Edie were stationed in Panama. During their three and a half year stay, they did extensive collecting in the Panama/Pacific area, and this collection of shells has been exhibited in several shell shows in Western Florida. They have also collected the Caribbean side of Panama, including a trip to the San Blas Islands.

Their "shell bug" did not wane once they returned home to Falls Church, Virginia; they made several trips to Florida and began collecting local shells; in 1969 they moved to Florida permanently. They spent the winter in the Florida Keys and then moved to Fort Meyers where they concentrated on their Florida-Caribbean collection, which has also been exhibited in several shell shows. Their collection of *STROMBIDAE* has been built up over the past few years.

Oregon

Marjorie and Wayne Stevens were winners of the Grand Trophy at the OREGON SOCIETY OF CONCHOLOGISTS SHELL SHOW in June. Their exhibit was 8 feet long, 24 inches deep and 26 inches high, and was of the Theme from "Genesis" of the King James version(slightly edited) and read as follows:

"And The Lord Commanded Noah
Make an ark of cyprus wood -- the length shall be four hundred and fifty feet - the breadth seventy-five feet and the height forty-five feet.
In its side you shall put a door and the ark shall have three decks.
You shall enter the ark with your sons, and your wife, and your son's wives with you.
Of every living creature upon the earth you shall bring into the ark two of each sort -- birds of all kinds, cattle and *every creeping* thing shall come and enter, two by two, for you to keep them alive."

Now some malacological students may not agree that it was possible for *Spondylus americanus*(coming lastly out of the rain) to "creep" along the road and into the ark. Some biblical students may disagree with our interpretation "every creeping thing." The Stevens' reply to date is in the form of rebuttal questions: Did edible apples grow in warm climes of the Garden of Eden? Did the whale actually swallow Jonah? Did Lot's wife actually turn into a pillar of salt? -- Certainly the *Spondylus* climbed aboard!

Sanibel

"The Chambered Nautilus" was the C.O.A. Award-winning exhibit at the SANIBEL SHELL FAIR by Neil Hepler of Deerfield Beach, Florida. It was entered in category "C9" Educational(exhibit intended primarily to teach) and encompassed 12 cases and 35 display feet. The SANIBEL SHELL FAIR was held on March 1-4 at the "new" Community Hall on Sanibel. Neil's exhibit also took the "Peoples Choice Award" at the SANIBEL SHOW.

The exhibit's inception came about when Neil read an article on the Chambered Nautilus by Douglas Faulkner in the January 1976 issue of National Geographic. He set a completion date for January 1979. It was finally finished just two weeks before the '79 shell shows. This three year project had Neil in correspondence with 40 zoologists from around the world and 25 workers in *Nautilus* from the United States. The exhibit touched on 37 different aspects of the creature.

Neil boasts 20 major awards in Educational exhibits over a 16 year period and says he will continue in the study of the *Nautilus*, "I started as a beach cleaner, then became a beachcomber, then became a collector and then became a fanatic and am such to this day!" he exclaimed. The exhibit is now housed in the Delaware Museum of Natural History in Greenville, DE.

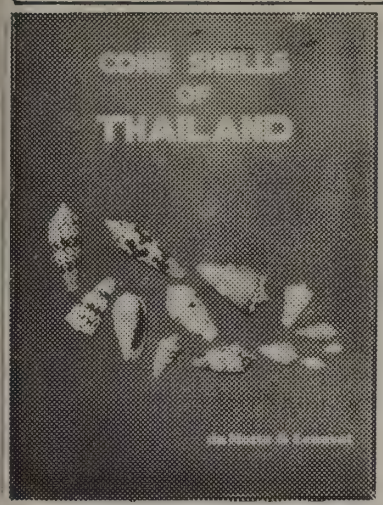
Neil's *Nautilus* exhibit also fared well at some other 1979 shell shows where it took the "American Museum of Natural History Award" and "The Exhibitor's Award" at the BROWARD SHELL SHOW, and the "Smithsonian Award" and "Best Educational Award" at the ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW. I would strongly suggest that you read Neil's article on the Chambered Nautilus in the Summer 1979 issue of "Of Sea and Shore" magazine. It is very informative.

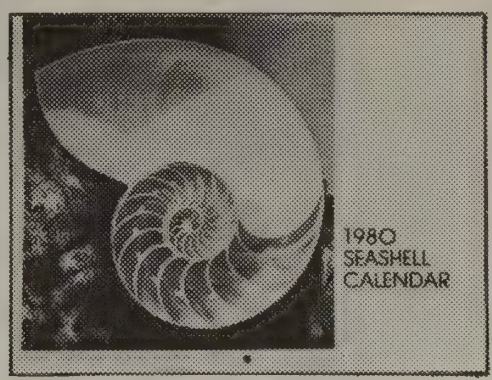
C.O.A. GRAND TROPHY WINNERS will be a regular feature of the Bulletin, and if you win a C.O.A. Award in the future, please write us with the details and a picture or slide of the exhibit or yourself if possible. Let's show the membership your Grand Exhibits!

GOOD LUCK!

Shells In Print

by Richard Goldberg





CONE SHELLS OF THAILAND is a recent publication by A.J.(Bob) daMotta and Phairot Lenavat of Thailand. This 20 page slick paperback has 8 color plates covering 105 species, including those controversal new cone species. The introduction has many interesting facts about the cones of Thailand. Did you know there is almost a complete absence of *Conus* species in the Gulf of Thailand? Included in the text of each species is the latin name, author and year described; a short description of the species and in certain cases its limited range and the size of the shell. Text and plates are on the same spread. A list of references follows the species. The index, current prices of Thai-Cones in Baht Currency(conversion given in introduction), and a glossary of Gastropod Terms round out the book. The inside front cover has a map of the geographical area covered. This is a good addition to your library if you are specializing in *Conus* and want a complete coverage of this geographical locality. You will find some disparity between various publications on *Conus*, but we will leave that part to the experts. The price is $5.00

Image Calendar Company has published a SEASHELL CALENDAR for 1980 featuring photographs by James H. Carmichael, Jr. The calendar takes you from September 1979 to December 1980 with such shells as *Cymatium femorale*, Six Pacific Cone Shells, *Murex cornucervi*, *Architectonica trochlearis*, *Epitonium scalare*, *Voluta imperialis robinsona*, Five Miter Shells, *Murex alabaster*, *Lyropecten nodosus*, *Opeatostoma pseudodon*, *Tridacna squamosa*, *Murex palmarosae*, *Thatcheria mirabilis*, *Pleuroploca gigantea*, *Melo umbilicatus*, and *Murex pecten*. Each species is aesthetically arranged as seen through the lens of Carmichael's camera. This is a nice addition to your shell room, den, or wherever a calendar or nice shell pictures are needed. Image Calendar Co., Inc. can be contacted at P.O. Box 5682, Sarasota, FL., (no zip code given). The cost is around $5.00

After a long hiatus, SHELL COLLECTOR MAGAZINE is back in circulation with issue #2. Editor Kirk Anders said, "Many things happen in a new venture, and SHELL COLLECTOR isn't any different. We're quite late with this issue, but are now back on schedule and ready to go. I'm sorry you've had to wait but we feel the quality that SHELL COLLECTOR offers is worth waiting for. Don't you agree?" We sure do, Kirk, and we are told that issue #3 will be in the mail earlier than the usual three month gap between a quarterly publication's issues. Issue #2 includes articles on *Ovula*(cover story), the C.O.A. Convention 1978, *Cypraea spadicea*, *Vasum*, the *Mirapectens*, *Conus bartschi* and *brunneus*(two views), Are Shells Disappearing, an article by R. Tucker Abbott, Maintaining Cones in the Aquarium, the Piscivorous Cone, and a Caribbean Cone Rediscovery, along with numerous regular features and lots of color pictures. I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming SHELL COLLECTOR back into circulation; we look foward to future issues.

CARFEL PHILIPPINE SHELL NEWS, a publication of the Carfel Seashell Museum, made its appearence this year with an informative newsletter covering shelling activities in the Philippines. We hear alot about new and reappearing species coming out of the Philippines; here we will be able to read first hand about these finds. CARFEL PHILIPPINE SHELL NEWS is a bi-monthly and is available through the Carfel Seashell Museum. GOOD LUCK Carlos and Fely Leobrera on your new venture.

New Zealand Tonnidae (con't.)

that he has the two species reversed in this respect.) This feature is however not consistent. The geographical ranges of the two forms seem quite separate, with a wide gap in between, where the presence of this type of mollusk would not be expected. Lakes Entrance in Victoria appears to be the southwest limit of *Tonna cerevisina*.

To my knowledge, the eastern limit of *T. variegata* is Eucla, in the Great Australian Bight. Between these limits is over a thousand miles of Australia's coldest water, quite an unsuitable habitat for *Tonna*. Up till now no intermediate forms have been brought to light by collecting along the Northern Territory in which direction some connecting link between the two species would appear most likely to be discovered. At the moment the most satisfactory solution is to maintain the two as separate species.

Tonna tetracotula Hedley 1919

This was the second species of *Tonna* to be recorded in New Zealand. A specimen trawled near the entrance to Hauraki Gulf was recorded by Powell(Trans. N.Z. Inst. Vol. 57 1927).

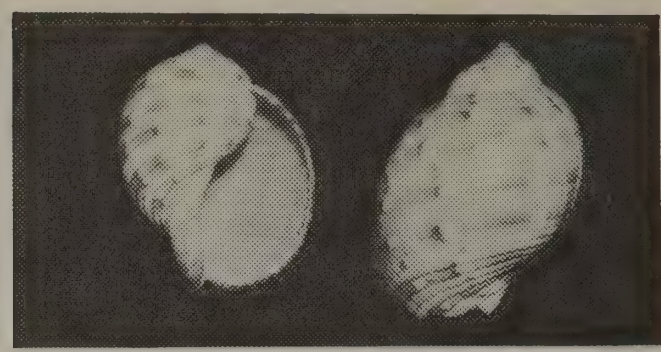
Tonna tetracotula Hedley, 1919

Hedley separated this species from *Tonna sulcosa* (Born 1778) by a number of features which later research has shown not to be constant. Further study may show *T. tetracotula* to be a sub-tropical form of *T. sulcosa*.

Tonna tetracotula as is presently recognized, has been collected at several localities in the far north of New Zealand. Its Australian distribution is confined to the coast of New South Wales and Southern Queensland.

Tonna cumingii Reeve 1849

In 1938 Powell described a new species, *Tonna maoria*, from a specimen collected at Houhora Heads, North Auckland, and stated it appeared allied to *Tonna cumingii*. This was the third species of *Tonna* recorded in New Zealand.



Tonna cumingii Reeve, 1849

Tonna cumingii is a species of variable color pattern, and wide geographical range. It is far from common, and generally collected by trawling in deep water. Beyond New Zealand it occurs in eastern Australian waters, and from Indonesia through the Philippines to Japan.

The type of *Tonna maoria* is undoubtedly a specimen of *T. cumingii*. Some doubt exists as to whether *T. cumingii* itself is indeed a valid species.

The distinction between *cumingii* and *Tonna chinensis* Dillwyn 1817 is very slight; both the sculpture and the color patterns of the two species have great similarity. *T. cumingii* may yet be shown a form of *T. chinensis* or even identical to it.

Tonna luteostoma (Kuster 1857)

This species has been recorded by Powell as being collected in the far north of New Zealand(Rec. Auck. Inst. & Mus. Vol. 8 p 216; 1971).

Tonna luteostoma (Kuster, 1857)

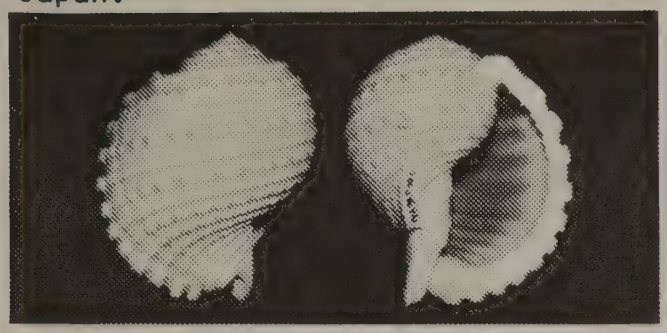
It is one of the largest species of *Tonna* reaching up to 200mm in length and is not a common species. Its distribution appears to be a north-south strip of Western Pacific Ocean stretching from New Zealand to Japan, including the northeast coast of Australia. The species has been recorded on the coast of Mozambique, but identity of the specimens requires confirmation.

Tonna maculata (Lamarck 1822)

This is another species recorded in the far north of New Zealand by Powell(Rec. Auck Inst. & Mus. Vol. 6 p 15).

The validity of this species of *Tonna* is also in doubt. Cernohorsky(MARINE SHELLS OF THE PACIFIC-Vol. 2 p 110) treats *T. maculata* as a synonym of *Tonna dolium* (Linne 1758).

Tonna maculata(=*dolium*?) has a wide distribution in the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific. It is known in Malaysia, Indonesia, tropical Australia, Taiwan, Fiji and Japan.

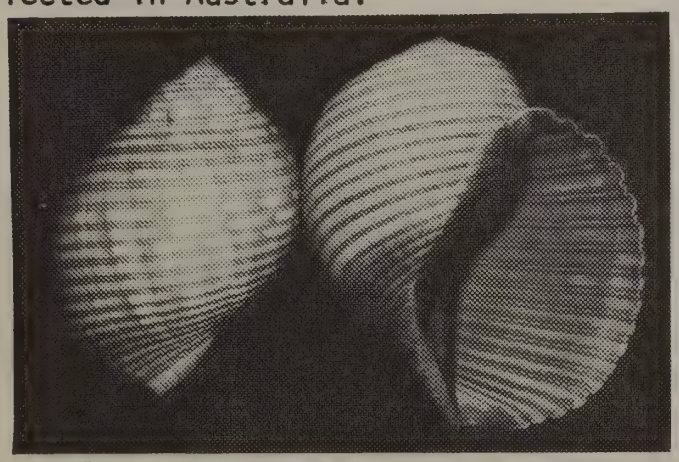


Tonna maculata (Lamarck, 1822)

Tonna melanostoma (Jay 1839)

Another tropical species recorded by Powell(Rec. Auck. Inst. & Mus. Vol. 6 p 190) in northern New Zealand.

This is a species more of the Central Pacific rather than the Western Pacific area. Its presence in Hawaii is well recorded. Its eastern limit appears to be the Society Islands, and it extends westward into the Melanesian area; I am not aware of it being collected in Australia.



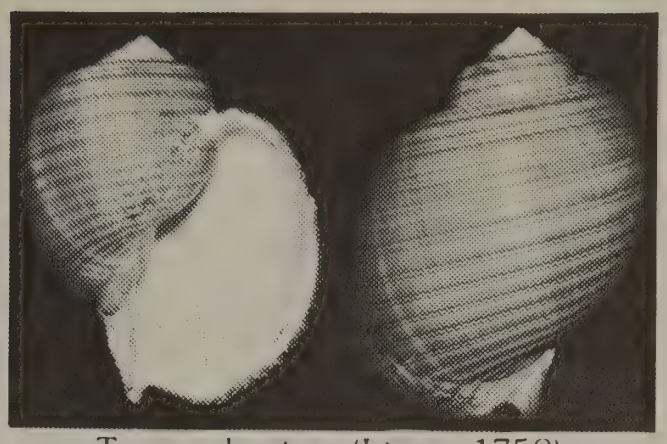
Tonna melanostoma (Jay, 1839)

Tonna olearium (Linne 1758)

(Ed. Note: This species is now called *Tonna zonata* (Linne) as per personal communication with William Old, American Museum of Natural History, New York).

Yet another recording by Powell of a tropical *Tonna* in New Zealand(Rec. Auck. Inst. & Mus. Vol. 6 p 191).

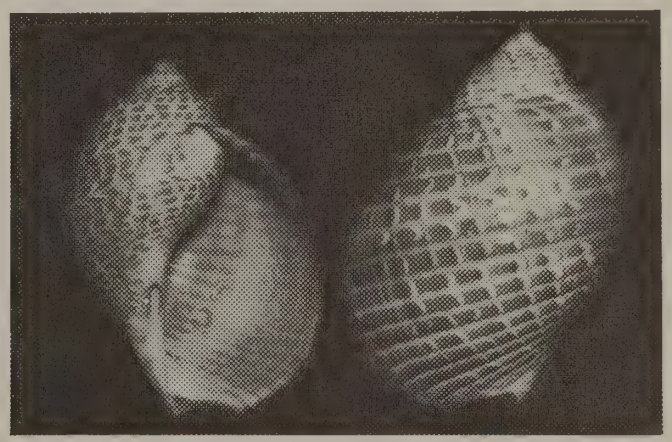
One of the larger species of *Tonna*, reaching about 200mm in length, it is recognized by the presence of interstitial riblets between main ribs throughout the whole shell. It has great similarity to



Tonna olearium (Linne, 1758)

Tonna galea (Linne 1758) which is widely distributed in the Pacific Ocean and is also found in the West Indies.

Tonna olearium(=*zonata*) is mainly confined to the area around Japan, the Philippines and Indonesia; I am not aware of its presence in Australia.

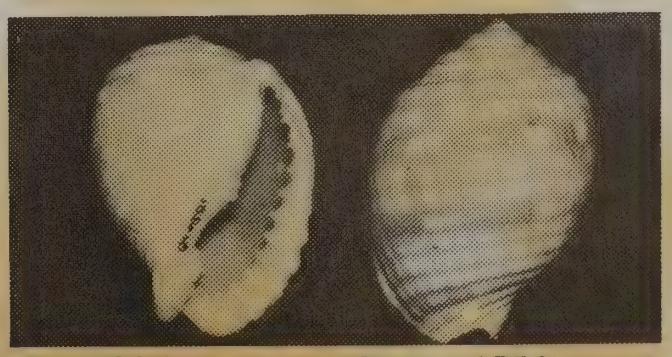


Tonna perdix (Linne, 1758)

Tonna perdix (Linne 1758)

This is the commonest of all the Indo-Pacific species; it is quite common in eastern Australia and reaches as far east as Hawaii and north to Japan.

Empty shells have been collected in New Zealand, but as yet no live specimens have been recorded.



Malea pomum (Linne, 1758)

Malea pomum (Linne 1758)

An empty shell of this *Tonnid* was collected in New Zealand, but that is really insufficient evidence on which to include it in our faunal list. Being a common shell in the tropical Pacific it may some time be located in our northern waters.

(con't. on page 5)

New Zealand Tonnidae

by W. J. Paul, Paremata, New Zealand

We would like to thank the American Museum of Natural History, Department of Living Invertabrates for use of their collection to photograph species discussed in this article. Mr. Paul's article originally appeared in the Journal of the Wellington Shell Club. The photographs have been added for this issue, and are by Richard Goldberg.
Shells pictured are not necessarily a New Zealand specimen.

Up to the 1920's when *Tonna tetracotula* was added to the fauna, only one species of *TONNIDAE* was recognized in New Zealand -- referred to as *Tonna variegata*, which is now placed as a Western Australian *Tonna*. Today we have a list of eight species of the Family *TONNIDAE* living in our coastal waters; empty shells of additional species have also been collected, suggesting that others may be living in these waters.

The presence of several species of *TONNIDAE* here is not surprising with the life history of these mollusks. When *Tonna* larva were first collected, they were identified incorrectly. In 1847 John MacGillivray collected plankton off the Northern coast of New South Wales; among this material was a small creature which was named *Macgillivrayia pelagica* in 1851 by Prof. E. Forbes. In 1863, Dr. Paul Fischer concluded that *Macgillivrayia* was a larval *Dolium*(a genus later replaced by *Tonna*), but *Macgillivrayia pelagica* has not yet been identified as larva of any one species of *Tonna*. The larval stage in this family seems to be long lived, enabling the distribution of species over large areas. Although the total number of species is comparatively small, they range throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans from South Africa to Hawaii; from Japan down to New Zealand. There are several species in the Caribbean area, one in the Mediterranean, one in West Africa and one in tropical West America.

There is a major problem in the study of *Tonnid* distribution -- the lack of agreement on the validity of many of the names which have been introduced; the family has not been reviewed for a long time. The last major paper on the Australian forms was "A Review of Australian Tun Shells" by Charles Hedley in 1919(Rec. Australian Mus. Vol. 12). Although Hedley did a masterful job at the time, there has not been a major paper since and the synonymies now listed cannot be considered as final.

Tonna cerevisina Hedley 1919

The shell listed by Suter in his "Manual of New Zealand Mollusca" 1913, as *Tonna variegata* Lamarck 1822, was renamed by Hedley in 1919 as a sub-species of his new species *Tonna cerevisina*, of eastern Australia which had also been previously referred to as *Tonna variegata*. The latter name was shown to be referrable to the common form in Western Australia.

Tonna cerevisina Hedley, 1919

When Dr. C.E.R. Bucknill wrote "Sea Shells of New Zealand" 1924, he was apparently unaware of Hedley's work and he continued the use of the name *Tonna variegata*.

In the 5th edition of Powell's "Shells of New Zealand," he treated the New Zealand shell as being the same as the eastern Australian species and not warranting sub-specific rank. In New Zealand, *Tonna cerevisina* occurs over a considerable part of the North Island coasts. On the west coast it has been collected as far south as Kapiti Island and broken fragments have been collected on shore near the entrance to Porirua Harbor.

In Australia the most southerly occurrences appears to be in the vicinity of Lakes Entrance in Victoria. From there it ranges northwards to northern Queensland. It occurs beyond Australia at Fiji, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island.

Some authors have raised the question of *Tonna cerevisina* and *Tonna variegata* being con-specific, or possibly end-of-range forms of a single species. The main differences between the two is the presence of small riblets between the ribs on the shoulders of the shells in *variegata*. (Users of Dance's ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SHELLS will observe

(con't. on page 10)

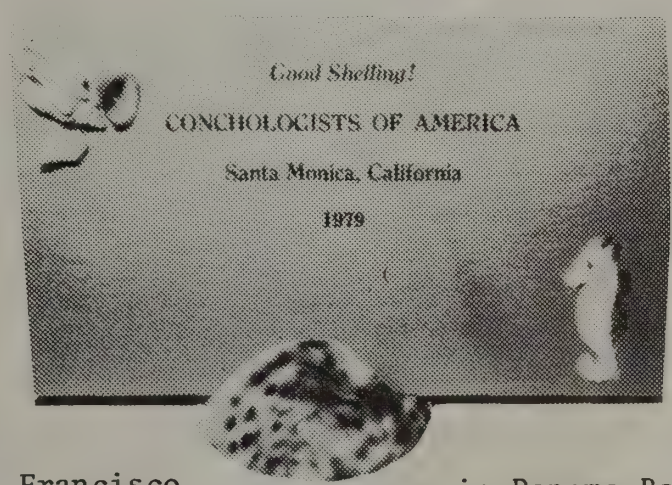
CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN

NUMBER 18

CONVENTION COVERAGE

by Margaret Teskey, Big Pine Key, Florida

A most pleasant four days were launched on Wednesday afternoon October 10th, with a warm welcome to Santa Moncia by convention chairpersons Ruth and Jan Greenberg. After opening comments by 1979 President Gerrie Walklet, the first speaker, Jim Tobin of Portland, Oregon was introduced. Jim spoke on Collecting in The Solomon Islands and illustrated his talk with professionally done color slides. This was followed by a slide presentation of freak and rare shells, the work of Joel Greene of San Francisco.



A coffee break(cookies, coffee, iced tea) was enjoyed at mid-afternoon as it was during each session, spiced with the first drawing of books donated by their publishers. This has been a feature of these meetings since the first, always due to the efforts of Wayne Stevens of Portland -- since *You Must Be Present To Win,* the chance of losing out on a $40 or $50 book ensures a fairly packed house.

The C.O.A. cocktail party hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter of the C.O.A. was followed by the dinner hour(though who really wanted to eat after those lavish hors d'oeuvres?). The evening was capped off with a visit to Bill Bledsoe's home to view his famous shell collection.

Thursday opened with a slide presentation of fossil and recent carrier shells by Kate St. Jean of Carmel, CA. Entitled "*Xenophora* - How Do They Do It?" it held her audience enthralled until the end. Next Jim Tobin completed his talk of the previous day with slides of South Seas Cypraea -- nobody having seen these beautiful creatures in all their living glory will ever be completely happy with a dead cowrie. Helen Du Shane's account of Collecting on Perlas Island in Panama Bay concluded Thursday forenoon. Following lunch a chartered bus transported some fifty shellers up the coast to Malibu and the beach home of Ruth Greenberg. Since California law forbids the collecting of living mollusks, the beach had been "salted" with Californian specimens, among these, a few "ringers" or species which do not occur in California. Prizes were awarded to those who found and identified these "ringers." All were collected with gusto. A late afternoon cocktail party at the hostess's famous Tidepool Gallery, followed by dinner

(con't. on page 4)

Conchologists of America Inc.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, CONCHOLOGIST OF AMERICA, INC. was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Martin Lerner; 64 Thompson Ave.; Oceanside, N.Y., 11572
VICE-PRES.: Phyllis Pipher; 1116 "N" St.; Tekamah, Nebr., 68061
SECRETARY: Sally Jo Gray; 3943 Cornell Way; Eugene, Oregon, 97405
TREASURER: Clair Stahl; 3235 N.E. 61st St.; Portland, Oregon, 97213
MEMBERS AT LARGE:
R. Wayne Stevens; 1835 N.E. 16th Ave.; Portland, Oregon, 97212
Richard H. Jones; 1432 Dorsh Rd.; South Euclid, Ohio, 44121

BULLETIN STAFF

EDITOR: Richard Goldberg
DESIGN DIRECTOR: Marc Goldberg

The BULLETIN is an official publication of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC., published quarterly in March, June, September and December. We invite you to submit any shell related items for inclusion in the BULLETIN. Address all BULLETIN correspondence to the EDITOR at 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane; Flushing, New York, 11365.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

INDIVIDUAL(per year) $5.00; FAMILY(receives one Bulletin) $7.00; OVERSEAS(Air Mail Postage) $10.00; Send check or money order to the TREASURER(address above).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great pride that I accept the honor and responsibility as President of the Conchologists of America for the forthcoming year. On behalf of the newly elected officers, I wish to thank all members of the C.O.A. for the faith and trust placed in us. We pledge to do our best to promote the best interests of the organization.

The last several years have been momentous ones for the C.O.A.; our organization has grown tenfold, and we now have over 500 enthusiastic shell collectors. Our activities have expanded and we offer many services to the shelling community. It is my hope that we will continue to expand.

We intend to continue with the presentation of the prestigious C.O.A. award at shell shows throughout the world. Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, committee chairman, has reported that 11 awards were made in 1979 so far 17 shows have requested the award for the 1980 season.

Our newsletter has developed into a mature and responsible shell publication and, under the editorship of Richard Goldberg, will continue to be a "top level" publication offering news of the C.O.A. as well as informative articles for the sheller.

We are still exploring other ways in which we can help the sheller and the shell clubs around the world, and we are now preparing a monograph on shell clubs in the United States. This publication, which we hope will be ready in the spring, will list all the shell clubs, their officers, their meeting dates and places and other information which will be of interest to the shell community.

The 1979 convention was a huge success thanks to Ruth and Jan Greenberg and the "Los Angeles Chapter of the C.O.A." (see our cover article). Key West, Florida has been selected as the site for the 1980 convention. The 1980 convention promises to be the "best" yet and those who have attended past C.O.A. conventions can testify that they are just fantastic affairs to attend. We all look foward to 1980. We are also exploring the possibility of having the members planning to attend the convention meet in the middle of the Florida Keys on the Sunday or Monday prior to the start of the convention so that the C.O.A. can sponsor a shelling trip through the Keys on the way to the convention. More information on the convention and the shelling trip will be in future issues of this newsletter.

This year we're asking all members to solicit at least one of their shelling friends to become members of the C.O.A. If each and every one of us brings in one new member we will double our membership by 1980. Lets help make C.O.A. the biggest and best organization in the shell community

See you all in Key West in 1980.

Martin Lerner

CONSTITUTUION AND BYLAWS
OF
CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA INC.,

ARTICLE I NAME AND OFFICE

Sec. 1. The name of the organization shall be CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA INC., a non-profit organization

Sec. 2. The location of the principal office of the club shall be designated as the address of the Treasurer during the incumbent's term of office.

Sec. 3. For accounting purposes, the club will follow the calendar year, January 1 to December 31 with dues being due and payable January 1.

Sec. 4. The term of elected officers of the club shall commence immediately following their election at the regular annual meeting and continue through the ensuing period and until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Sec. 1. The purpose for which the corporation is to be formed is to promote the study of the science of Malacology and Conchology through the encouragement of research and the dissemination of educational material both by lecture and publication to persons interested in the said sciences; to further the education and interests of members of the corporation and of the general public through lectures, educational advertising and public exhibits; to promote and encourage the understanding of ecology and conservation so that future generations can enjoy Malacology and Conchology. In furtherance of its corporate purposes the corporation shall have all general purposes enumerated in Section 202 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York.

Sec. 2. No part of its earnings or net income shall inure to the benefit of any individual, and no officer, member or employee of the corporation shall receive or be entitled to receive any pecuniary profit from the operations thereof.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Membership in CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA INC., shall be open to all individuals, families and clubs interested in the study and/or collecting and conservation of Mollusks. There shall be no restriction on membership by reason of race, creed, color, sex, religion or country of origin.

Sec. 2. There shall be five (5) classes of memberships.

1. Regular
2. Family
3. Club
4. Overseas
5. Honorary

Sec. 3. (a) Regular Membership: Regular membership shall be members who reside within the United States, Canada or Mexico and who pay such dues as shall be determined by the members at the annual meeting. They shall have full voting privileges.

Sec. 3. (b) Family Membership: Family membership shall consist of husband and/or wife and members of their immediate family including children under 18 years of age. The "family" shall be entitled to receive one copy of club publications and notices but "family" shall be limited to the casting of two votes. The "family" shall pay such dues as shall be determined by the members at the annual meeting.

(c) Club Membership: Club membership shall consist of any club which joins the Conchologists of America Inc., and the club shall be entitled to receive a single copy of the club publications and notices but the entity of the club shall not be entitled to vote. The club shall pay such dues as shall be determined by the members at the annual meeting.

(d) Overseas Membership: Overseas membership shall consist of individuals, families or clubs which have their principal mailing address outside the United States, Canada or Mexico. Overseas members shall be treated the same as Regular, Family and Club members regarding copies of the publications and notices and the right to vote and shall pay such dues as shall be determined by the members at the annual meeting.

(e) Honorary Membership: Honorary members shall be such persons who shall have made outstanding contributions and/or service to the field of Malacology and/or Conchology and who shall have been elected as such by a majority of the members at an annual meeting. Honorary members shall be entitled to receive club publications and notices but shall not be entitled to vote or hold elective office. There shall be no dues for Honorary members.

ARTICLE IV ELECTED OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The officers elected to serve for the ensuing year shall consist of PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY and TREASURER.

Sec. 2. Duties of Officers:

(a) President - It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the annual meeting and the Executive Board meeting before and after the annual business meeting. The President shall communicate to the membership such matters and make such suggestions as may tend to promote the welfare and increase the usefulness of the organization and shall perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to the office.

(b) Vice-President - It shall be the duty of the Vice-President in the absence or disability of the President to perform all duties of the president. The Vice-President shall also serve as Membership Chairman and perform all duties relative to that function.

(c) Secretary - The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Executive Board meetings and those of the annual business meeting. The Secretary shall issue membership cards and keep the Vice-President (Membership Chairman) advised of all changes in the membership roster.

(d) Treasurer - The Treasurer shall receive and safely keep all funds of the organization and pay out same, keeping proper records of all transactions. The Treasurer shall prepare monthly statements for the

President and other officers and prepare an annual statement for presentation at the annual business meeting.

Sec. 3. There shall be an Executive Board which shall consist of the four elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), the immediate Past President and two members at large to be appointed by the President.

Sec. 4. The regular meeting of the Executive Board shall be held at a time and place designated by the President.

ARTICLE V APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Sec. 1. Appointive officers of the club shall include, but not be limited to, Chairman of Publications, Chairman of Nominating Committee, Convention Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Historian, Publicity Chairman and Parliamentarian. These officers shall be appointed by the President with the majority approval of the Executive Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, but without vote at Executive Board meetings.

ARTICLE VI SUCCESSION IN OFFICE

Sec. 1. Should a vacancy occur in any elective or appointive office other than the President, whose office shall immediately by the Vice-President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board to serve until the next ensuing election of officers, by majority vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. Not less than 90 days prior to the next regular meeting the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee with Chairman, of not less than 3 persons nor more than 5.

Sec. 2. This committee shall prepare and present to the next assembled business meeting a slate of officers, who have designated their willingness to serve.

Sec. 3. Additional nominations of members in attendance may be made from the floor.

Sec. 4. Additional nominations of members not in attendance at the annual meeting may be made from the floor, however, such nomination must be in writing signifying nominee's willingness to serve and be signed by five (5) members in good standing.

ARTICLE VIII ELECTION

Sec. 1. All officers shall be elected by a majority vote at the regular annual meeting. Proxy votes shall not be honored.

ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

Sec. 1. The time and place of the next annual meeting may be voted on at the regular business meeting. Failing that, the Executive Board elect are authorized to establish the place and date.

ARTICLE X RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. While motions to amend will be permitted from the floor, it is requested that proposed resolutions or amendments be submitted to the President in writing on the first day of the convention and such proposed resolutions or amendments shall be read by the President as an order of business on opening day.

ARTICLE XI CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Sec. 1. The Constitution of the Conchologists of America Inc., may be amended at any annual meeting, by a two-thirds vote of those present who are qualified to vote and in attendance.

Sec. 2. Amendments may also be made by a two-thirds affirmative reply mail vote on any proposed amendment approved for publication by the Executive Board. The Board shall have the right to establish a reply deadline date for vote tabulation.

ARTICLE XII VOTING

Sec. 1. In matters of the Club business, including elections, members in good standing shall be entitled to vote. Good standing shall be construed to mean that the member's dues for the calendar year shall be in the hands of the Treasurer or authorized officer, and duly recorded prior to casting a vote.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ADOPTED
AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
HELD AT SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA,
OCTOBER 13, 1979.

A DREDGING TRIP TO BARBADOS, WEST INDIES

by Mari Hughes, Lake Worth, Florida

Trial and error has taught me that I cannot travel and shell successfully to far away places alone, even though I'm a long time sheller and a fairly independent gal. I now go with leading shell tours (you can read about them in shelling publications) and I sit back and enjoy.

All of my trips have been perfect -- Kirk Anders guarantees adventure on his tours and one time he threw in three earthquakes in one night! Don Pisor promised deep water shells on a dredging trip to Barbados, but I doubt even he imagined the fantastic results.

Don made the most of every day for us on the Barbados dredging trip and the brunt of it all was squarely on his shoulders. California shellers included Don and Jeanne Pisor and their sons Robert and Brett; Richard Pisor and daughter Lisa; Irene Warriner ; Mary Seawright; Mary Gillis; Frank and Harriett King and their sons Stephen and David; Alan Hofer; Al and Jean Kiger; other shellers included Alex and Dana Kerstitch of Tucson, Arizona; Harry Class of Canada; Joanne Schrimsher of Alabama; and Saul Rotter and myself from Florida. Sight-seeing was like a dream to this Florida girl who isn't used to mountains and luncheon at a cliff side resort was great. The shell trips were run daily with some night excursions. It was not easy to find shells while snorkeling but we each got a couple of *Thais deltoidea*, *Columbella mercatoria*, *Conus mus*, *Littorina ziczac*, *Cypraecassis testiculus*, *Nerita peloronta* & *N. versicolor*, many Keyhole Limpets, *Purpura patula* and a few perfect *Voluta musica*.

The dredging trips resulted in these finds: *Morum dennisoni*, *Cypraea surinamensis*(live collected! -- see accompanying photograph), *Murex hidalgoi*, *Latiaxis dalli*, *Cochlespira radiata*, *Conus mazei*, *C. mindanus*, *C. sanderi*, *C. hunti*(*Ed. Note: we have no information on the latter three Conus spp. at this time*), *Cheilea equestris* (false-cup & saucer), *Murex cailleti*, *M. mcgintyi*, *Antillophos beauii*, *Polystira tellea*, *Dentalium laqueatum*, along with specimens from the Families *Epitoniidae*, *Nassariidae* and *Olividae*. Sea stars and

A live collected Cypraea surinamensis Perry, 1811. Photo: Don Pisor.

one rare *Octocoral* were collected. I collected many miniscule shells, all dredged at 90 fathoms. Back on land we collected one pretty tree snail and two types of freshwater snails.

The work involved for the serious sheller was not easy, but the experience, education and fun-filled days were great. Now I wait for the mail to bring me the next batch of selections for trips to far away lands in search of that elusive mollusk we have yet to find.

Only A Convention Chairman Knows For Sure!

Have you ever wondered what goes through the mind of a convention chairman before, during, and after a C.O.A. convention? Santa Monica convention chairpersons Ruth and Jan Greenberg share a few of their thoughts for the Bulletin...

Worrying a lot! Will anyone come? Will there be enough people? Will they like it? Will the banquet go okay? Will they like Sam Hinton?

They all came, and they all loved everything, and adored Sam as much as we do, and would have kept him going for three more hours!

The contingents from Oregon and New York who arrived early, lent a lot of helping hands!

Jose, head of the hotel catering office saw to it that everything ran smoothly -- when we came rushing in with frantic confusion to tell him "We need

(Con't. on page 8)

CONVENTION COVERAGE

(Con't from Page 1)

at a local restaurant, concluded a most full day.

One sad note to the convention festivities was that co-chairperson Jan Greenberg took ill during the convention and was unable to attend Friday and Saturday's activities. We sure did miss her during that time.

Friday opened with two talks by John Phillips, a local ex-fisherman of abalone shells. He discussed tips on cleaning these beautiful shells and concluded with a warning, "Always check the gut for pearls!" John's second talk was "Collecting in the Maldives," and displayed some of the species he had collected. Phil Clover gave a whirlwind tour of his recent trip to Southeast Asia for shells, and Anthony D'Attilio, former New Yorker but now living in San Diego, gave a glimpse of several new *Muricidae*, some as yet undescribed.

In the afternoon the "Dealer's Bourse" was held. These have become a feature of the meetings. Ten dealers arrayed their shells on long tables where they received rapt attention. Who ever expected to see 22 *Conus gloriamaris* at one time? Or a dozen Golden Cowries? And for sale yet? During this time, Bill Bledsoe had set up photography equipment and obligingly photographed shells for those desiring shots of one or another favorite. Following dinner came another favorite, the annual auction of donated shells -- this netted the treasury over $1800, plus sore throats for the two auctioneers, Martin Lerner of Long Island and Dick Jones of Cleveland.

Saturday morning Richard Goldberg of New York took a rapt audience on a pictured collecting trip the length of the Florida Keys, followed by Twila Bratcher(resident *Terebra* expert) who showed The Am-Mela Expedition to the South Seas. At noon Richie arrayed his fellow shellers against a Pacific backdrop for a group photograph, and then all trooped back indoors for the annual business meeting.

This was especially spirited and when the smoke had cleared(well, not really), the Constitution had been revised, incorporation announced, dues raised, publication expanded, new officers elected and Key West chosen as the 1980 meeting site. After the business meeting, another session of The Dealer's Bourse was held.

The final event was the annual banquet which followed a cocktail hour on Saturday evening. A Shell Collector's Style Show was a hilarious feature -- members came forth as they might appear while collecting; Miss Clean n' Pretty dressed to the nines; the Cold Weather Collector; the Night-time Collector; the Collector who has everything(and wears it on his belt); the Flapping Skin Diver; the Scientific Collector; and the Armchair Collector with a sheaf of price lists and a wad of money -- all introduced in proper fashion by Phyllis Pipher of Nebraska. The good sports who modeled the Styles were Sally Jo Gray of Oregon, Richard Goldberg of New York, Gerrie Walklet of Florida, Martin Lerner of Long Island, Don Pisor of California, Duke Dougherty of California and George Buchinoff of Washington.

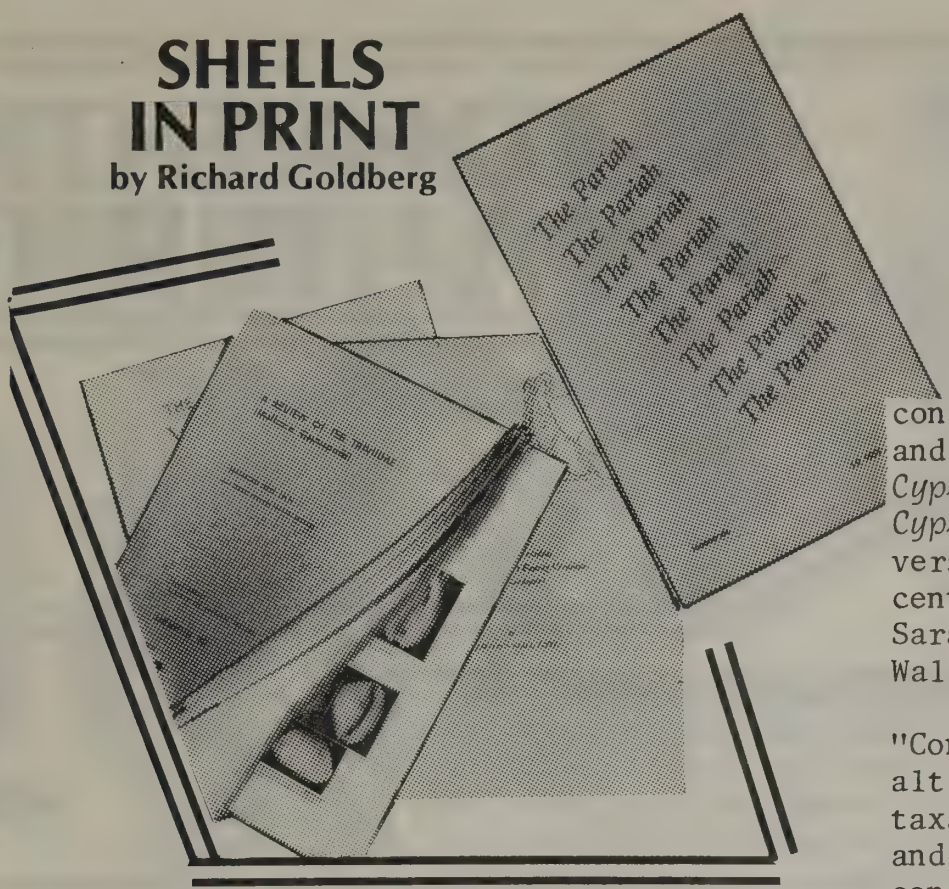
The banquet speaker was Sam Hinton, ex-of the Scripps Institute and now with a local public school board. Sam's witty and wonderful talk on where shell names are derived from was followed by his treating the group to a mini-concert of songs(he also used to record songs during his diverse career)dealing with, of course, taxonomy, nomenclature and the animal kingdom. Sam accompanied his songs with a guitar, flute and other mouth instruments. Sam Hinton really closed the convention on a great note!

An added attraction for those who stayed an extra day on Sunday, was a trip to see the Santa Barbara Shell Show. About 25 enthusiastic members carpooled up to Santa Barbara and got to see a really fine exhibit. Later in the afternoon everyone headed back to Santa Monica to pack up and leave for the airport to catch flights home, only with one thought on their minds -- SEE YA IN KEY WEST IN 1980.

Some of the specimens for sale at the "Dealer's Bourse." Photo: R. Goldberg

SHELLS IN PRINT

by Richard Goldberg

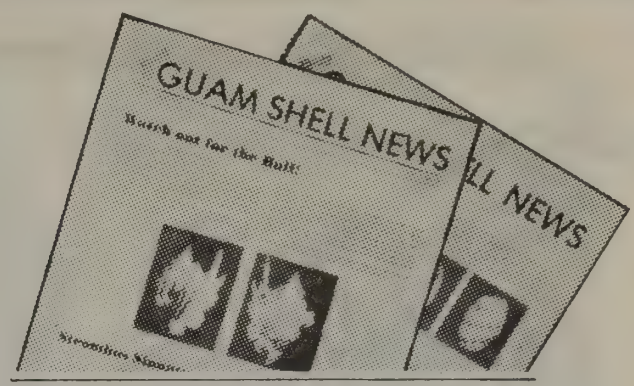


A third in a series of monographs dealing with the Allied Cowries by Crawford Cate made its appearance in late 1979 in The San Diego Society of Natural History's Memoir 10, "A REVIEW OF THE TRIVIIDAE(Mollusca: Gastropoda)." Like its predecessors "A Review of the Eratoidae" and "A Systematic Revision of the Recent Cypraeid Family Ovulidae," published as supplements to The Veliger, Cate's last work in this trilogy is as exhaustive in scope as the first two.

This volume covers 6 valid genera (2 new taxa), 7 subgenera, and 138 valid species(41 new to science). Cate mentions in his introduction that wherever possible, the type specimens or their nearest equivalents were illustrated. This makes the work even more important for scientific value.

The monograph is a slick paperback (8½ X 11") printed on excellent quality stock, sure to last through those long identifying sessions. It is illustrated with hundreds of black & white halftones, each tagged with the latin name and cross-referenced to the text. "A REVIEW OF THE TRIVIIDAE" is an indispensable reference for the professional or amateur, and along with the two other volumes in the series are bound to be classic works in the field.

Number 6 in the series "THE PARIAH," a privately published newsletter by Jerry G. Walls, was put into circulation in late November. Like past PARIAH'S, this is



concerned with the taxonomy of molluscs, and includes two articles -- "The Saga of *Cypraea thomasi* Crosse, 1865(Mollusca: *Cypraeidae*)," by Jerry Donohue of the University of Pennsylvania; and "Cones Recently Described by Shikama, da Motta, and Sarasua(Mollusca: *Conidae*), by Jerry G. Walls.

As you know, Walls is the author of "Cone Shells," and the latter article dealt with in "THE PARIAH" covers 14 cone taxa named since publication of his book, and his opinions on these newly named cone species.

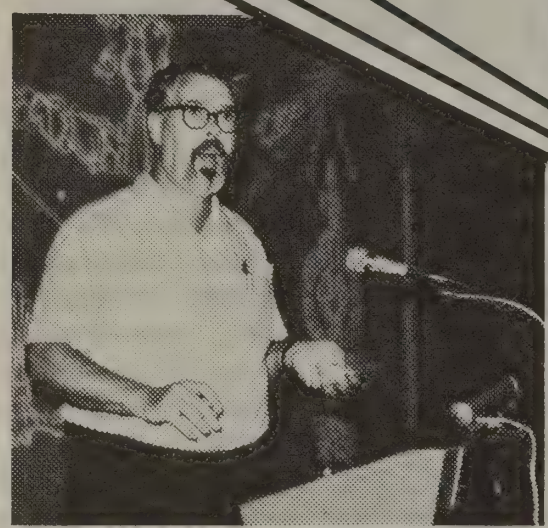
Subscriptions are not accepted for "THE PARIAH," but you may get further information from Mr. Walls, P.O. Box 42, Hightstown, N.J., 08520.

1979 also saw the appearance of GUAM SHELL NEWS, a quarterly newsletter published by the Guam Shell Club. It deals with shells and shelling in Guam and adjacent areas. An "I.D." Column illustrates and describes various local species. Club members write about their collecting experiences, and tips on collecting, cleaning and keeping of live mollusks. Guam Shell Club news is also included. Black & white halftones are used to illustrate various shell species in this slick newsletter publication.

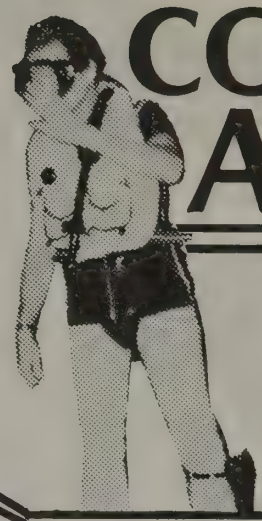
Inquiries may be made by writing, GUAM SHELL CLUB, P.O. Box 2954, Agana, Guam, 96910. We look foward to seeing more of GUAM SHELL NEWS in the future.

Some publications we'll be looking foward to in 1980 include *"RARE SHELLS OF TAIWAN In Color,"* by T.C. Lan(due around February 1980); Dr. Alison Kay's book on Hawaiian Mollusca(due any minute!); and *"TROPICAL PACIFIC MARINE SHELLS,"* by Walter O. Cernohorsky(already published, and we hope to include a review in our next issue). Have you heard of any new publications, books or periodicals? Let us know and it will be reviewed in SHELLS IN PRINT.

CONVENTIO
AND PHO

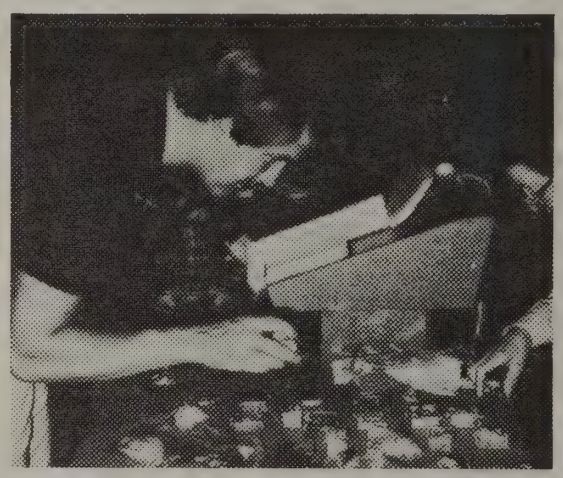


Co-Auctioneer, Dick Jones of Cleveland, fields another bid.



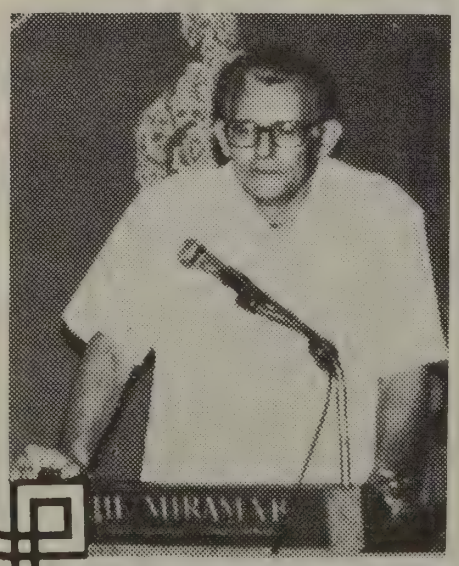
The Style Show Fashions included from left to right - the Scientific Collector(Duke Dougherty); the Skin Diver Collector(Don Pisor); the Cold-Weather Collector(Richard Goldberg); the Arm Chair Collector(George Buchinoff); Phyllis Pipher

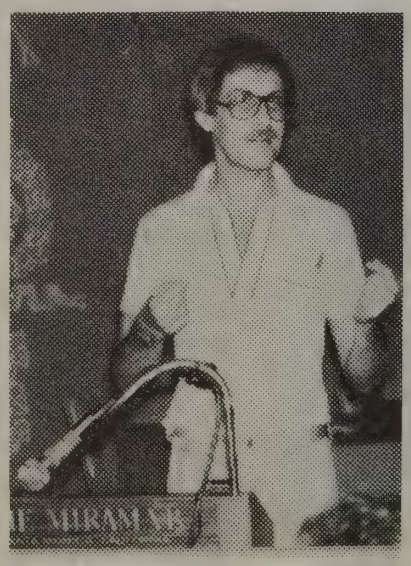
A packed house and spirited bidding at the Annual Auction netted many fine shells for bidding members.

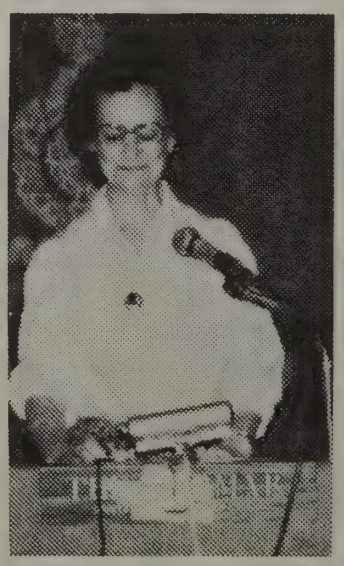


Members check the donated material to be auctioned off.

Convention C
sons, Jan &
berg strike



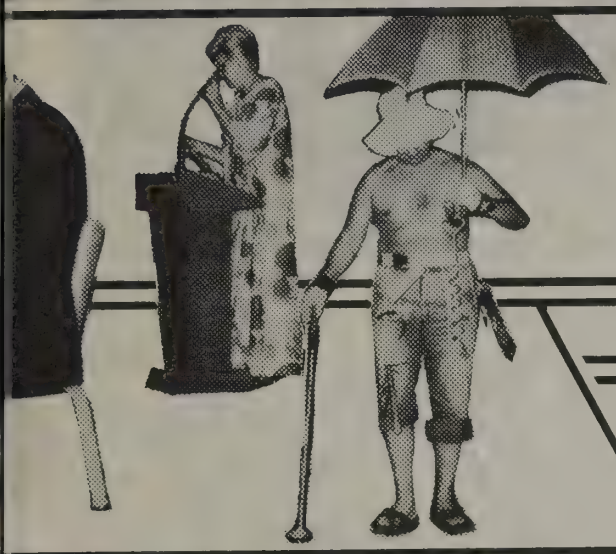




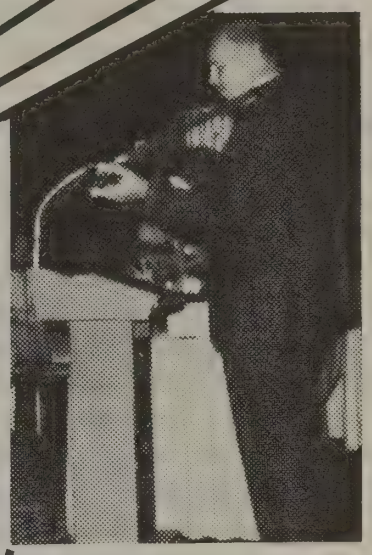
CONVENTION SPEAKERS included(L to R): Jim Tobin, Joel Greene, Helen DuShane, Kat

COVERAGE O RECAP

Convention photos by Richard Goldberg and Martin Lerner.

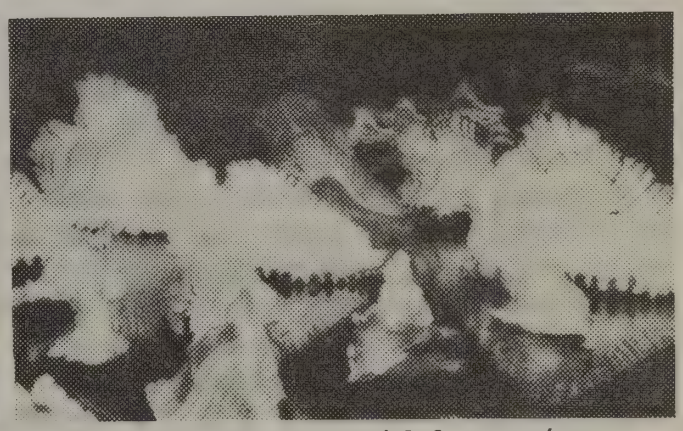


who introduced the Styles; the Collector Who Is Prepared For Anything (Martin Lerner); the Clean n' Pretty Collector(Sally Jo Gray); and the Night-time Collector(Gerrie Walklet). The photo's are by Clair Stahl.



Sam Hinton sings a tune during the banquet.

A bus-load of collectors heading to Malibu for a "Treasure Hunt."



Some of the beautiful specimens viewed at Bill Bledsoe's home.

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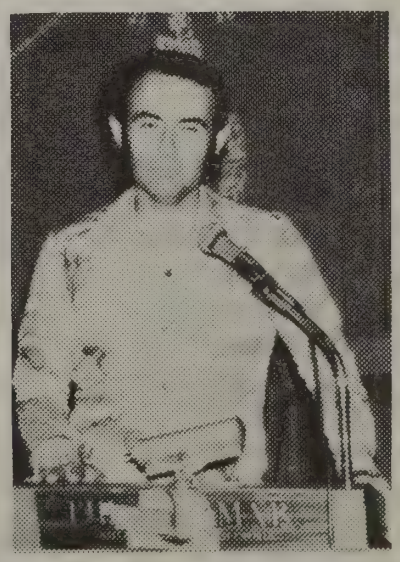
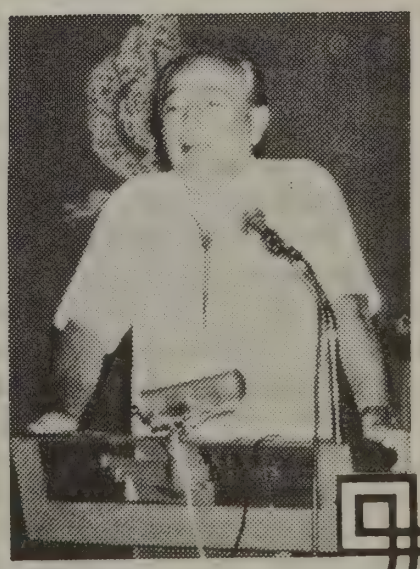




ean, Rich Goldberg, John Phillips, Twila Bratcher, Phil Clover and Tony D'Attilio.

(Con't from Page 3)

Only A ...

all the chairs re-arranged and need six extra display tables" or "This speaker has to have a light on the podium" or "The banquet tables are all set and we've got four more people at the last minute" -- Jose always had one response; A big smile, a wave of his hand and a quiet, "It's all right, just fine, don't worry, no problem." He always got the job done!

The hotel guests kept coming in to look around and asked apologetically(as if they thought they should know) "Please tell me what is a CON-CHOLL-OGIST?"

The dazzling display of shells offered for sale at the Dealer's Bourse, brought many the enjoyment of looking and buying.

Happy members trudged back from their beach walk, with bags full of "treasure-hunt" shells, a few still down there, determined to find every one of our "planted" specimens(and we worried they wouldn't even want to do this!) -- they didn't find all the prize winning non-California specimens, and we wonder which confused Malibu resident would puzzle over that South Pacific Cone or Cowry they will find some day on this beach.

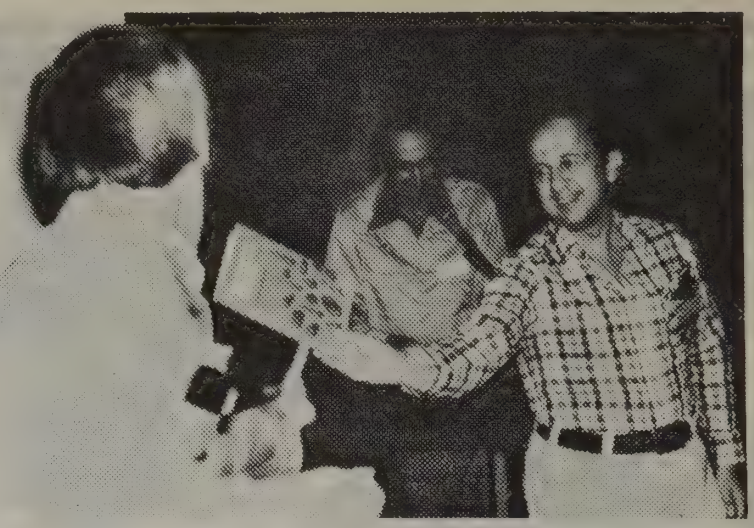
There was disappointment when three of our "publisher" regulars sent regrets -- How could we have a convention without Tucker Abbott, Tom Rice, and Kirk Anders? Calling Tucker by phone and talking with him and Cecelia during the banquet, and relaying the conversation to everyone else made us wish we could have hooked up to a P.A. system and broadcast the call!

Putting together Kirk's Style Show without Kirk -- scrounging up costumes and props and last minute ideas and finding models! -- but enjoying how well it went!

There were complications of getting everything planned, organized, set up, the million and one last minute jobs -- finding out from the hotel who does what and when -- making lists, endless lists, checking them off -- finding time to fit everything in -- There's never enough time even with four days -- it all goes by so fast!

We met new people, welcomed old friends, made new friends, visited and talked and enjoyed everyone's enthusiasm!

Until next year...



A lucky winner during one of the Book-Give-Aways, but YOU HAD TO BE THERE TO WIN! Photo: R. Goldberg.

Our SPECIAL THANKS to these publishers who donated books for the Book-Giveaway at this year's convention...

American Malacologists Inc., P.O. Box 2255, Melbourne, FL., 32901
American Philosophical Society, 104 5th St., Philadelphia, PA., 19106
Cresent Books-Division of Crown Publishers Inc., 1 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., 10016
Dover Publications Inc., 180 Varichs St., New York, N.Y., 10014
Harvey House Publications, 128 W. River St., Chippeioa Falls, WIS., 54729
Houghton Mifflen Co., Wayside Road, Burlington, MA., 91803
Larousse & Co., Inc., 572 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y., 10038
Mayflower Books, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022
Plescum Publishing Corp., 227 W. 17th St., New York, N.Y., 10011
Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA., 94305
Sheridan House Inc., 175 Orawaupum St., White Plains, N.Y., 10606
McKay, David Co., Inc, 2 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., 10016
Sterling Publications Inc., 2 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., 10016
Texas Western Press, University of Texas, El Paso, TX., 79968
Tidepool Gallery, 22762 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, CA., 90265
Charles E. Tuttle Inc., 285 Main St., Rutland, VT., 05701
University Press of Florida, 15 Northwest 15th St., Gainsville, FL., 32603
University of Miami Marine Publications Office, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL., 33149

BUSINESS MEETING IN BRIEF

The following are highlights of the annual business meeting, held on October 13, 1979, at the Miramar Sheraton, Santa Monica, CA., compiled from the official minutes taken by Sally Jo Gray...

President Gerrie Walklet called the meeting to order and began reading the minutes from the 1978 business meeting in Long Island, N.Y. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Clair Stahl read the treasurer's report and it made mention to the fact that 233 members had joined the organization since the 1978 convention. This brought the total membership to 510 members. This year's C.O.A. auction brought in a total of approximately $1880.00.

It was suggested from the floor that member dealers could put a C.O.A. membership form in with their price lists to possibly increase membership. The auditing committee(composed of W. Stevens, B. Pipher, and D. Jones) reported on their findings, and the Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Gerrie Walklet read the awards committee report for Chairman R. Tucker Abbott. It was suggested from the floor that when the C.O.A. trophy is awarded, that a C.O.A. membership for the individual be included for a one year period. The ammendment was approved. It was also suggested that a photo of the awarded display or winner, etc., with writeup, be submitted by the receiving show, to the Bulletin and to also be included in the archives. This motion was also approved.

The Stolen Shell Committee reported that no theft had been filed during the 1978-79 season. The committee was contacted relative to a customer/dealer problem, and after much discussion it was decided to include an Action Line type of system with the Bulletin to alert buyers of problems and offer advice; an Action Line editor would also be appointed. The motion carried.

Martin Lerner gave a report on the incorporation status and insurance coverage for C.O.A. Group theft insurance would not be available at this time due to the small amount of membership to interest the insurance companies. The C.O.A. is now incorporated with I.R.S. as a non-profit organization.

Next, the constitution was discussed with Gerrie Walklet distributing copies and reading over proposed changes. A motion was moved for the approval of the constitution with changes and carried(see constitution as supplement with this issue).

A motion passed adding two members at large to the board, appointed by the president. Also a Historian and Publicity Chairman would be appointed by the president.

Discussion on where to hold the 1980 C.O.A. convention ensued. Bids were made by the Key West(Florida Keys) Shell Club, Indianapolis Shell Club, and the Northern California Malacozoological Club. A motion was approved to accept the Key West bid for 1980. Invites were tentatively accepted from the Indianapolis and Northern California clubs upon approval at the next annual business meeting. Dates for the 1980 convention were discussed and it was suggested to hold it in early August, following the Jacksonville Shell Show, held in late July. The recommendation was approved and carried.

The dues structure was changed and approved to read as follows: *Regular Membership/$5.00; Family Membership/$7.00; Club Membership/$5.00; Overseas Membership/$10.00.*

The nominating committee advised nominations for the 1980 board and were as follows: *PRESIDENT/Martin Lerner; VICE-PRESIDENT/Phyllis Pipher; SECRETARY/Sally Jo Gray; TREASURER/Clair Stahl.* The nominations were approved and the motion carried.

Thanks were extended to Ruth and Jan Greenberg and the Greater L.A. Chapter of the C.O.A. for the hospitality shown to all C.O.A. members and for a great convention. The business meeting was then adjourned. *(Details of the minutes to be approved at the 1980 Business Meeting)*

Those members who signed up for the convention group photo while out in Santa Monica, the picture is ready. Write to Richard Goldberg, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365, for details.

GRAND TROPHY WINNERS

Mid-West Regional winner Sally Payne with some of her collection.

MID-WEST REGIONAL

Winner of the C.O.A. Grand Trophy at the MID-WEST REGIONAL SHELL SHOW was Sally Payne, of Decatur, Alabama. Her award winning display was entitled "Shells Collected Worldwide." It was entered in the General Collection catagory, and comprised of 6 cases with 14 feet of frontage space. Sally displayed a good selection of miscellaneous shells covering such Genera as *Cypraea*, *Conus*, *Voluta*, *Murex*, *Strombus*, *Lambis*, *Pectens*, *Xenophora*, *Spondylus*, *Charonia*, *Epitonium*, and *Oliva*. Her *Angaria sphaerula* also took the Silver Bowl for Shell Of The Show. The show was held from August 18-19.

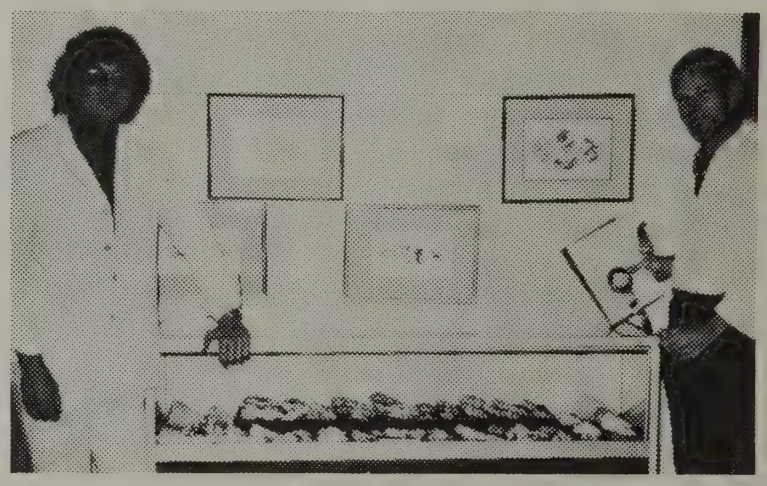
Sally was born and raised in Houston, Texas. She stated, "Being so near the coast, I have always had an interest in shells. The collecting fever never really caught fire until I first went to Florida in 1967. Still I didn't start collecting shells in a serious manner until early 1973. Then it rather exploded and I couldn't seem to buy them fast enough. We have made several trips to Sanibel both to self-collect and buy." Sally is in the process of recataloging and upgrading her collection and she admits it's a real job with over 1000 shells!

SANTA BARBARA

Winners of the C.O.A. Grand Trophy at the SANTA BARBARA "EXHIBIT OF SHELLS" were Robert Foster and Charles Glass with their display of "Cone Shells of the World." The display was entered in the Family/Genus Category and also took First Place in the category. The Cones were housed in one large glass case and included a good cross-section of species from common to rare. Foster and Glass had said of the C.O.A. Award that they were delighted to have received it!

The SANTA BARBARA Show was held from October 12-14, and coincided with the C.O.A. convention in Santa Monica. Those who stayed an extra day after the convention had a chance to carpool up to Santa Barbara to view the exhibits. The Show was held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The judges for the show were Bernie Pipher, Twila Bratcher and Margaret Teskey.

Foster and Glass are both partners in a Catus & Succulent Publishing venture and have been collecting shells since 1973. When asked how they split the



Santa Barbara's winners, Foster and Glass with "Cone Shells of the World." Photo: R. Goldberg.

collection up between them they said the shells are housed together and both admitted to their favorite families -- Foster claiming the *Murex* were his favorites, and Glass liked the other popular families.

The C.O.A. Awards Committee was proud to announce at the 1979 Annual Business Meeting that 16 Shell Shows would be offering the C.O.A. Grand Trophy in 1980. The participating shows are *ASTRONAUT TRAIL, BRITISH SHELL COLLECTORS, BROWARD COUNTY, CENTRAL FLORIDA, GEORGIA, GREATER MIAMI, GREATER ST. LOUIS, JACKSONVILLE, MIDWESTERN REGIONAL, NAPLES, OREGON, PALM BEACH COUNTY, SANIBEL SHELL FAIR, SARASOTA, SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CONCHOLOGISTS*, and *ST. PETERSBURG*.

FEED-BACK

This issue's FEED-BACK is from a portion of a letter sent to Treasurer Clair Stahl...

I am not a shell collector in the usual sense of the term. I am an emotional collector. Some women buy hats -- some buy new shoes or a pair of gloves; I buy shells. The last shell I bought, a left-handed whelk, cost only $4.00, but it is a treasure to me. I was standing in the school yard one morning, watching the children squabble and fuss all through recess. I was tired from a long bus trip, and it was cold, windy and just plain depressing. Right then and there I decided to do something special after school -- go to the local shell shop -- look through every cabinet and drawer and search each display for the one special shell that "had-my-name-on-it." That's just what I did. I found the whelk in a display with several others and knew at once it was for me. It wasn't the largest, nor the smallest, and it was far from perfect -- but when I held it I didn't want to let go. I carried it around the shop and held it while I looked at all the beautiful, expensive and near perfect shells. The owner brought several other whelks out from a back room for me to see. But when I looked at the shell in my hand I smiled and was content. That's how I collect shells...

Mary Campbell Powell

Some of the rare Cones exhibited by Foster and Glass. Photo: R. Goldberg

THANK YOU!

The specimen shells auctioned at this year's C.O.A. Annual Shell Auction were donated by members of the C.O.A., and by many shell dealers located throughout the world. We urge our members to patronize these dealers, and we express our thanks and appreciation to all members and dealers who have been so generous in their contributions of material to make our 1979 auction a success.

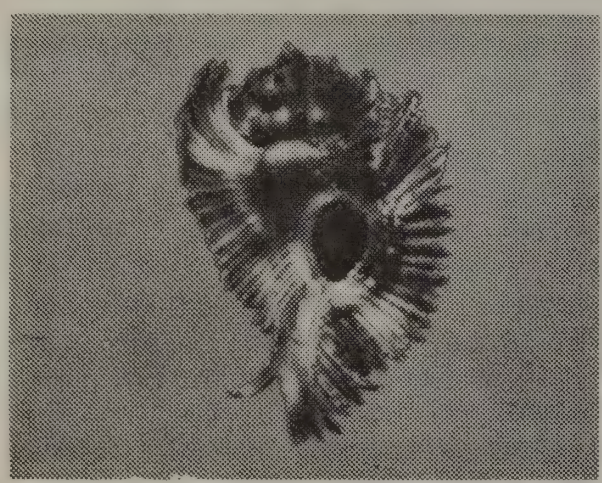
Bill Bledsoe
Auction Coordinator

Marty Beals, 12751 Mitchell, No. 1, Los Angeles, CA., 90066
Bill Bledsoe, Los Angeles, CA.
Brookman's, P.O. Box 49, Booval 4304, Queensland, Australia
Carfel Shell Exports, 1786a Mabini St., Malate, Manila, Philippines
Phillip Clover, Box 83, Glen Ellen, CA., 95442
Ferguson's Marine Specialties, 617 N. Fries Ave., Wilmington, CA., 90744
Richard Goldberg's Worldwide Specimen Shells, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365
Mrs. F.S. Harmon, 464 Riverside Drive, New York, New York, 10027
Island Specimens, 5200 N. Hwy. 1, Little River, Calif., 95156
Richard Kurz, 1575 N. 118th St., Wauwatosa, Wis., 53226
Leo Shell Export, Ja-Ela Estate, Ja-Ela, Sri Lanka(Ceylon)
Mal de Mer Enterprises, 946 Ralph Ave., Brooklyn, New York, 11236
Richard Sedlak, 4510 N.W. 46th St., Tamarac, Florida, 33319
Shamaron Shells, 229 West 2nd St., Deer Park, New York, 11729
Shells of the Seas, P.O. Box 1418, Ft. Lauderdale, FL., 33302
Taiwan Variety & Novelty Supplies, 2 Alley 11, Lane 174, Sect.2, Pateh Rd., Taipei, Taiwan
Third Stone from the Sun, 300 Rt. 17, Paramus, New Jersey, 07652
Tidepool Gallery, 22762 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, CA., 90265
Jim Tobin, Portland, Oregon
Shell Factory, Ft. Myers, Florida

SPEAKING OF SHELLS

by Bob Janowsky

It comes as little surprise to me to learn that the shell I discussed in C.O.A. Bulletin #16 as a new form of *Murex loebbecki* Kobelt, 1879 has been named as a new species. The shell is described as *Pterynotus miyokoae* by Sadao Kosuge in a new publication called "Bulletin of the Institute of Malacology, Tokyo." Several differences between *P. miyokoae* and what I consider typical specimens of *M. loebbecki* are the same characteristics used by Kosuge to separate *P. miyokoae* as a species -- for example, the color of the parietal shields and the formation of the varicies.



Pterynotus miyokoae Kosuge, 1979
Photo: R. Goldberg

It seems mine is most definitely the minority opinion concerning *P. miyokoae* and its great similarity to *M. loebbecki*. After the publication of my article I learned that Tony D'Attilio and Hans Bertsch of the San Diego Museum of Natural History were also planning to name the shell as a new species. D'Attilio was not aware that the shell has been found in the Solomons as I reported, and I was pleased to be able to share my information and my specimens with him. Kosuge is either unaware of the existance of this shell in the Solomons which is identical to his new species in almost every respect except color, or does not feel they are the same. No mention of the Solomon Islands specimens is made in his description of *P. miyokoae* -- serious omission, I think.

I am also surprised that Kosuge gives the data for his specimens as Mactan Island, Cebu, Philippines; all of the specimens that I have examined and heard have been reported to be from Davao, which is several hundred miles to the south of Mactan. Normally I would not consider a few hundred miles in range to be a great deal of importance, but one must be aware of the very limited geographical distribution most other of the members of the genus *Pterynotus* have. Cebu is currently a center for shell dealing in the Philippines; just as anywhere else in the world, assurances are often given that every shell for sale there was collected in local water. I suspect this is how the three specimens studied by Kosuge (obtained by Mr. Suzuki of the Maruma Shell Company in Japan) came to be attributed to Cebu.

I am glad to learn that D'Attilio and Bertsch will publish their findings about this shell in a forth-coming paper because while Kosuge's description "gets the job done" there are many details that need clarification. I expect D'Attilio and Bertsch's work will be a lot more descriptive and will be the final word about *Pterynotus miyokoae*.

"Hey Marty, do you have this one in your collection?" An added extra attraction to this and past conventions has been THE GRUNGE PARTY. Florida Keys member Margaret Teskey generously donated a gallon of beach grunge from the Florida Keys which was spread out on a long table and attacked by early rising members on Saturday morning. THANKS Margaret! Photo: R. Goldberg.

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN
NUMBER 19

IN SEARCH OF NEW ZEALAND'S SUBTROPICAL SHELLS

by Debbie Walton, Wellington, New Zealand

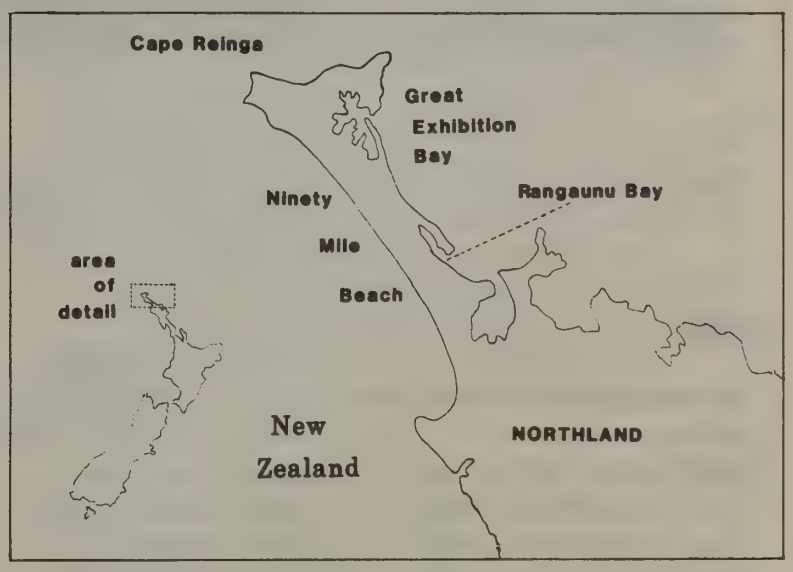
As Winter is well upon most of New Zealand by May, we decided to take a holiday on the east coast of the extreme north of New Zealand. Here, there are near sub-tropical conditions meaning plenty of sunshine, warm temperatures and the possibility of finding some of this region's subtropical shells.

Several types of Trumpet Shells such as *Cabestana spengleri* (Perry, 1811), and *Monoplex australasiae* (Perry, 1811)(= *parthenopeum*), are reputed to be more plentiful in the warmer waters. Another characteristic shell of the *Aupourian*(northernmost)shelling zone of New Zealand is *Tonna cerevisina* Hedley, 1919(see C.O.A. Bulletin, No. 17, p.12), which I have wanted to collect for some time.

The Tun Shells(*Tonnidae*) are our largest and most active carnivorous snails. They do not occur in the tidal zone, but crawl over sandy bottoms with an extremely broad foot and long proboscis extended, and feed on burrowing bivalves and echinoderms.

Since my family enjoys beach walking, I decided to encourage them to search for these uncommon shells as we explored the beaches.

The first beach we visited was only 35 kms. from Cape Reinga, where the northern-most New Zealand road ends. We travelled more than 30 kms. by rough dirt road out to a wide sweep of beach in Great Exhibition Bay which was exposed to the Pacific Ocean. The sand dunes and shore were white silicone sand while in the distance at the far northend of the beach were dark volcanic rock outcrops, stark against the white sand.



We started our shell hunt at the high tide line, which looked most promising for collecting with its driftwood, seaweed and shells. We found many species characteristic of New Zealand's sandy shores. There were discarded specimens of the handsome brown and

(con't. on page 4)

Conchologists of America Inc.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, CONCHOLOGIST OF AMERICA, INC. was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Martin Lerner; 64 Thompson Ave.; Oceanside, N.Y., 11572
VICE-PRES.: Phyllis Pipher; 1116 "N" St.; Tekamah, Nebr., 68061
SECRETARY: Sally Jo Gray; 3943 Cornell Way; Eugene, Oregon, 97405
TREASURER: Clair Stahl; 3235 N.E. 61st St.; Portland, Oregon, 97213
MEMBERS AT LARGE:
R. Wayne Stevens; 1835 N.E. 16th Ave.; Portland, Oregon, 97212
Richard H. Jones; 1432 Dorsh Rd.; South Euclid, Ohio, 44121

BULLETIN STAFF

EDITOR: Richard Goldberg
DESIGN DIRECTOR: Marc Goldberg

The BULLETIN is an official publication of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC., published quarterly in March, June, September and December. We invite you to submit any shell related items for inclusion in the BULLETIN. Address all BULLETIN correspondence to the EDITOR at 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane; Flushing, New York, 11365.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

INDIVIDUAL(per year) $5.00; FAMILY(receives one Bulletin) $7.00; OVERSEAS(Air Mail Postage) $10.00; Send check or money order to the TREASURER(address above).

FEED-BACK...FEED-BACK...FEED-BACK

The SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CONCHOLOGIST SOCIETY wishes to thank those who were responsible to giving us the Conchologists of America Award to be given at our show.

Our Show was held January 11-13, 1980 at the Exhibition Hall in Fort Myers.

The judges were William Old, Curator of Mollusks at the American Museum of Natural History in New York; William Lyons, Biologist with the State Dept. of Natural Resources Marine Research Lab. in St. Petersberg, Fl.; and Bob Wagner, author and co-author of shell books and publications.

The winning exhibit was The Genus *Strombus* by Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Hertweck, of Venice, Fl.

Sincerely,

Bart R. Zanarini
Shell Show Chairman

The following is a portion of another letter received, which probably affects many of you. If you would like to comment on this situation, we leave this column open for your opinions.

...Another fact that is sharply increasing the cost of books(especially Foreign books) is that various countries are establishing a "distributor" in the U.S.(Australia, Japan Publications and others) that receive the books and distribute them in the U.S. at a fat markup for handling them. For 20 years we purchased and imported books direct but foreign countries will no longer sell direct and we are forced to pay the middleman about 30% just for importing the books. This is causing the 30% increase we are being forced to pass along to the customers. This all started in the last two years and all the countries are getting on the band wagon, the latest being British Imports. They have found out the Americans will pay the increase and give them and their "Importers" a nice markup.

I sure hate to see the Middleman or broker concept getting control of the book business that has been a good educational tool for so many years, but everyone seems to be in favor of it as it makes it easy to order books regardless of cost.

Art West
Seashell Treasures

EDITORIAL

I've just finished booking my flight to Florida for August to attend the 8th Annual C.O.A. Convention to be held in Key West. I'll be looking foward to meeting many of you. So start planning now; it's never too late!

This issue has two articles on rare *Cypraea* and the feature article is on the search for that elusive mollusk in New Zealand.

A new regular feature is being prepared that will give you a chance to participate by writing about your "Better Ideas for Shell Collectors." The first installment, by creator Minicyp, will appear in the convention issue(#20).

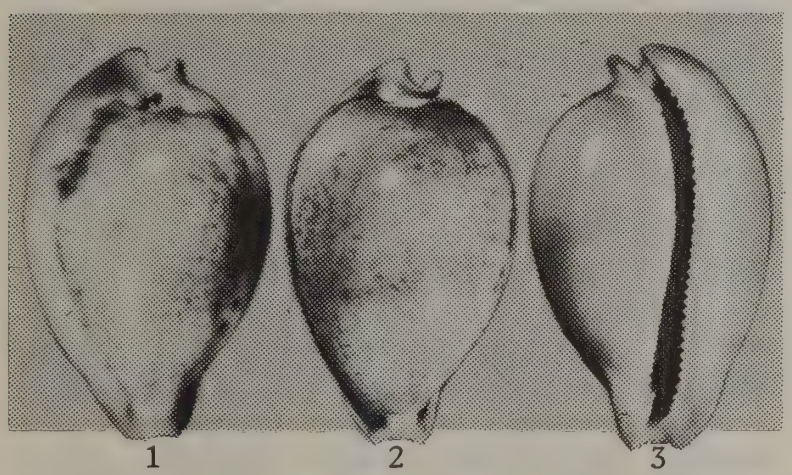
So read on, and enjoy!

Richie

SPEAKING OF SHELLS
by Bob Janowsky

Another Rare Cypraea For The Philippines

It is always exciting when a specimen of a very rare species is found in a new locality. I can now confirm that *Cypraea teramachii* Kuroda, 1938 has been found in the Philippines. Over the past two years I have had two reports of this species being found off Punta Engano in Cebu, but neither were substantiated.



Cypraea teramachii Kuroda, 1938; Fig. 1- Taiwan specimen. Fig. 2 & 3- Philippine specimen. All photos by Bob Janowsky.

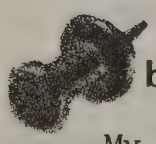
Burgess, in "The Living Cowries" (1970) reports C. *teramachii* only from the Kii Straits of Japan at an approximate depth of 70 fathoms. It was reported from the Straits of Taiwan and Northeast Taiwan in 1974 by T.C. Lan (Bull. Malac. Soc. China, Vol. 1). Another record for this species was set on April 10, 1978, when a dead adult specimen was dredged south of New Caledonia by the Oceanographic Research Vessel "Vauban" at a depth of 390-395 meters. The shell measured 55mm in length. The Philippine specimen reported here was collected alive in deep water(most probably 60-80 fathoms) in a tangle net off Samal Island, Davao.

Figure 1 is a specimen collected in April, 1978, by a fishing boat operating at an unreported depth off Ilan, Northeast Taiwan. *Figure 2 and 3* are a dorsal and apertural view of the Philippine specimen. The Taiwanese specimen measures 68mm in length, has a maximum width of 43mm and a height of 34.4mm. The dorsum is cream above the marginal line and changes to a light tan, speckled irregularly with light orange spots which separate the marginal areas(unspotted) from the dorsum. The margins are high and unspotted and generally peach colored. The base is cream colored near the aperture, changing to peach at the roundly developed margins.

The Philippine specimen is somewhat smaller than the Taiwanese specimen, measuring 62.5mm in length. Its other dimensions are proportionately smaller too. The Philippine specimen is very much brighter in color and has a lighter, thinner "feel" to it as well -- it is far more attractive than any I have seen before, with an almost translucent appearance rather than the somewhat dull and subdued quality usually found in this species.

Cypraea teramachii can possibly be considered for the title, "rarest of the *Cypraea*." Lan observed(Bull. Malac. Soc. China, Vol. 1, 1974) that the species is "usually taken dead with dorsal pattern obliterated; one live specimen taken about every seven years" -- observations that, in my experience, seem to be accurate. Few live-collected specimens of *Cypraea teramachii* reside in private collections in the U.S.A. My good friend Masao Tabakotani has made me aware of several more live-collected specimens in Japan, collected in the last few years.

I am unaware of any museum in this country having a live-collected specimen of C. *teramachii* in its collection. A color photograph of *Figure 1*, illustrated here, resides in the study collection of the American Museum of Natural History, in New York.



Youthful Shell Clubs
by Antonetta Stanzione, Barrington, R.I.

My interest in seashells was sparked after reading a fiction book entitled "The Lion's Paw," by Robb White, when I was a child. I have been collecting seashells since then, and my collection has grown substantially. I am presently involved in organizing sealife clubs which meet weekly for a period of six weeks at my local schools and the public library.

I begin teaching the basics of conchology such as family, species, etc.

(con't. on page 8)

In Search Of...Con't from Page 1

cream *Struthiolaria papulosa* (Martyn, 1784), which have prominent nodules on the shoulders of the whorls. My parents picked up good specimens of *Alcithoe*(Volute) with dark chocolate colored markings and slight shoulder nodules. These shoulder nodules cause some trouble with identification because they are not smooth enough to be *Alcithoe swainsoni* Marwick, 1926, nor do they have such prominent nodules as to be indentified with *Alcithoe arabica* (Gmelin, 1791). This form might be an intermediate between the two species.

We walked a fair distance collecting the occasional frilled *Bassina yatei* (Gray, 1835)(Venus Clam), and discarded *Maurea selecta* (Dillwyn, 1817)(Top Shell), with its attractive irridescent interior. When my mother picked up a broken piece of *Tonna cerevisina*, thin and deeply ridged, it was a sign the shells could be found on this beach.

Further on there were hundreds of little sandy bumps, which at close inspection were discarded *Umbonium zelandicum* (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1854)(Button Tops), which had become covered with sand from strong winds whipping along this exposed beach.

We had gone several kilometers along the beach when a piece of deep orange/brown shell caught my eye. It was a fragment of *Monoplex australasiae*, more evidence of these shells existence. Something whole must surely be found soon, so we kept on walking. After sheltering under a tree while a rain shower passed, we arrived at the volcanic rock outcrops which stretched out and into the sea.

In the deep bluish-green pools of the outcroppings, some of which were more than one meter deep with jet-black rock and white sand at the bottoms, were a great diversity of rocky shore species clinging to the pool sides and hiding under ledges. Clustered in large numbers were *Haustrum haustorium* (Gmelin, 1791)(Thaids), all matured and around 58mm in length. Their white, thickly sculptured counterparts, *Thais orbita* (Gmelin, 1791), also abounded, crowding under ledges among brown algae and *corallinia*. In here was also *Marginella mustelina* (Angas, 1871), a species that I have not collected before, being a northern shell of uncommon status. Many of these little light brown, yellow and red banded Margin Shells had hermit crabs(*Pagurus novaezelandiae*) in residence and they scuttled across the sandy pool bottoms when I tried to collect them, soaking my sleeve in the process!

Scrabbling over the sharply edged rocks were small white and brown heavily sculptured *Paratrophon quoyi* (Reeve, 1846)(= *strangeri* Gray). Turning this shell over, the animal withdraws, letting you see its deep purple aperture. The rocks extended off shore quite some way, so I did not give up hope of finding a Trumpet Shell of some sort. Trumpets live under low tidal ledges or beneath stones that come in contact with muddy sand. The area we were collecting seemed very suitable. I often turned over rocks, but found very little -- several *Amaurochiton glaucus* (Gray, 1828)(Green Chitons), and a broken *Muricopsis octogonus* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)(Muricid), which is another species found only in northern districts.

One shell I collected is most obviously influenced by warm northern waters is the black nerite, *Nerita melanotragus* (E.A. Smith, 1884). It is part of a warm to tropical family, and grows to its maximum size in Northland.

We then headed back to the car which was over 1½ hours walk back in the other direction, with some nice shells, but not what we had come for.

Still not giving up hope, we decided to explore another beach along Rangaunu Bay the next day. Once again, we had to travel 20 kms. by dirt road on the off-chance that it would lead to an open, sandy beach. The first sight of the beach was rather dismal -- mud and mangroves.

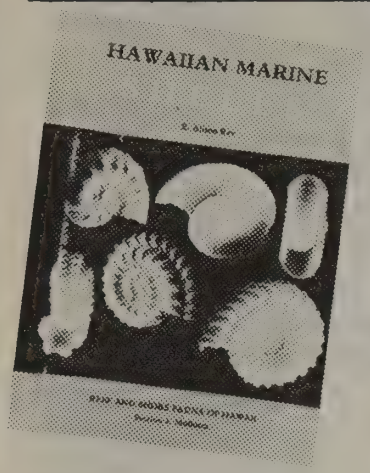
Many of the bays and inlets of Northland are mangroves and sand flats of low tidal *Zostera*. This harbors shells such as *Amphibola crenata* (Gmelin, 1791)(Mud Snail), which is most abundant among mangroves as well as further down the shore on open flats. During tidal runs, they will burrow beneath the mud, emerging on the ebb-tide.

I was not thrilled about collecting in the mangroves, so we drove on until we reached another white sand

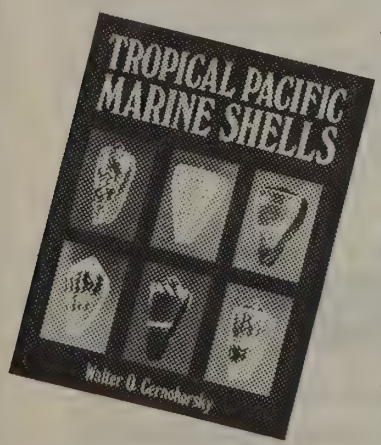
(con't. on page 6)

SHELLS IN PRINT

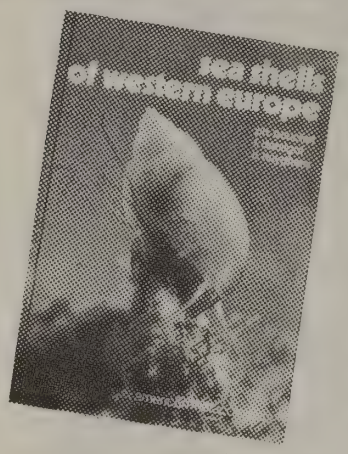
By Richard Goldberg



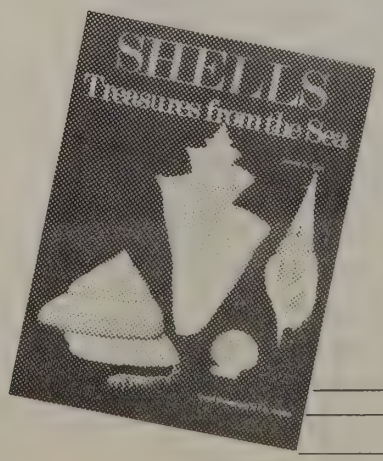
HAWAIIAN MARINE SHELLS by Dr. E. Alison Kay made its appearance in late 1979. This in-depth volume is the fourth Section of a series on the Reef and Shore Fauna of Hawaii, published by the Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu. The only thing I can say about this book is that it's great! Its scope can be compared to Keen's Seashells of Tropical West America, covering all classes of Mollusca found in the Hawaiian Islands. An informative introduction discusses the geology of the Hawaiian chain, Ecology of the marine mollusks, and other aspects of fossil history and distribution in Hawaii and concludes with a Historical Resume of molluscan exploration. This 653 page volume is illustrated with high quality black and white photographic plates and line illustrations(195 in all), and 6 color plates, illustrating life styles of the various classes of mollusca and one on the Hawaiian *Cypraea*. Those who were looking for a comprehensive identification book on the shells of Hawaii need not search any further; HAWAIIAN MARINE SHELLS I believe fits the bill.



As stated in the last issue of The Bulletin, TROPICAL PACIFIC MARINE SHELLS by Walter O. Cernohorsky has been released, and is now available through book dealers in this country. This book is in essence, the third volume of Cernohorsky's two previous Pacific volumes entitled MARINE SHELLS OF THE PACIFIC, Volumes I & II. In the author's foreword he explains that the name was changed at the publisher's request. Mr. Cernohorsky stated that the publishers felt that making this Vol. III in title would hurt sales as people without Vol. I & II would feel that they were not buying a complete set(Vol. I is now out of print). The book is of the same size, format and quality of Vol. II, covering over 600 species not contained in I & II. Also incorporated into this volume is nomeclatural updates for some species dealt with in I & II. The geographical coverage is the same as the previous volumes(Marquesas to West New Guinea). The high quality plates (64 black & white, 4 color) and an authoritative text make this an excellent identification guide, whether you have the two previous volumes or not. TROPICAL PACIFIC MARINE SHELLS befell many delays in its release, but was worth the wait.



American Malacologists, Inc. has just published a gem of a little book entitled SEA SHELLS OF WESTERN EUROPE by Bouchet, Danrigal, and Huyghens(formerly COQUILLAGES DES COTES ATLANTIQUES ET DE LA MANCHE, which was the French edition). First off, the color photographs of living molluscs contained throughout the book are probably the best I've seen published anywhere. The format is similar to that of Neville Coleman's WHAT SHELL IS THAT(1975), where the various species are considered under the habitat they might be found in, e.g. sand dwellers, fauna of the seaweeds and zostera beds, rock dwellers, etc. The first part of the book discusses these various habitats and the second part covers the species, all illustrated in situ. In addition, 11 color plates show the shells prepared for the collection -- in all, 200 species covered. The text is informative, and is yet another alternative to a shell book, one that I advocate highly.



When I first received a copy of SHELLS TREASURES OF THE SEA by James A. Cox, I coined it the "Best of the Shell Desk Diary." Sure enough, the press release by the publishers, Larousee & Co., Inc., stated F.H.

(con't. on page 8)

In Search Of...Con't from Page 4

beach. The beach was littered with abandoned *Umbonium zelandica* and *Tanea zelandica* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1832)(Moon Snail). We found nothing else of interest along this shallow, sheltered area, so we moved on to the end of the beach. Here it turned sharply and continued exposed to the open sea. The beach was backed by low sand dunes and *Marram* grass. Shallow bowls had been hollowed out in these dunes from previous storms, which contained a large variety of shells.

Digging up the sand we found valves of the large *Toheroa*(*Paphies ventricosa* (Gray, 1843)), which were quite plentiful, although considerably smaller than those found on west coast beaches further south. These molluscs are a culinary delicacy, so fishing restrictions regulate this species to avoid depletion of their numbers.

We also found a great many valves of *Paphies subtriangulata* (Wood, 1828), similar in shape to the former, but considerably smaller. It was unfortunate that most of the shells found this far up the beach were faded and damaged. A few large *Penion sulcatus* (Lamarck, 1816) (= *adustus* Philippi) and *P. dilatatus* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)(Whelks), which jutted enticingly out of the sand, had considerable gaping holes in one side. This could have been a good find as it lives in deep water and usually collected only by fishing trawlers.

The beaches we collected on would give nothing away. We only found fragments of the subtropical Tun and Trumpet shells we'd hoped to find in one piece. The sky threatened rain, but we continued our search.

Most of the shells were slightly covered with fine white sand, so when I did see a *Xymene ambiguus* (Philippi, 1844)(Muricid), I nearly stepped on it. This shell had fine, slightly worn ridges and a pale grey coloring. Once again our long walk along the beach produced little of what we were looking for.

With hope for better luck on the west coast, we headed for Ninety Mile Beach. A westerly storm out at sea caused a mountainous surf visible far out on the ocean. The road we were travelling paralleled the shore, so we stopped the car on the beach. My mother leaped from the car and ran several yards and picked up a *Tonna cerevisina* which had been washed up. You can imagine the disappointment we felt when we saw a hole in its side. Undaunted we raced down to the shoreline, discarding this specimen, thinking more had been cast up in the surf.

We walked along way and only occasionally found a broken piece of *Tonna*. Apart from a few *Spirula spirula* (Linne, 1758)(Ram's-Horn Shell), also washed up, the beach was devoid of shells.

Watching out for tourist buses which sped past us down the beach returning from Cape Reinga, we headed back towards the car. Deciding to keep the Tun we had earlier discarded, we past back that way to find it too had been picked up. Thoroughly annoyed, we sat in the car while my father walked up the beach in the opposite direction. He only found broken shell fragments.

I was tired of walking after this shelling trip, and was sure that I would not find specimens of the shells we had diligently searched for(although a few days later we continued looking -- shelling is a compulsive habit!).

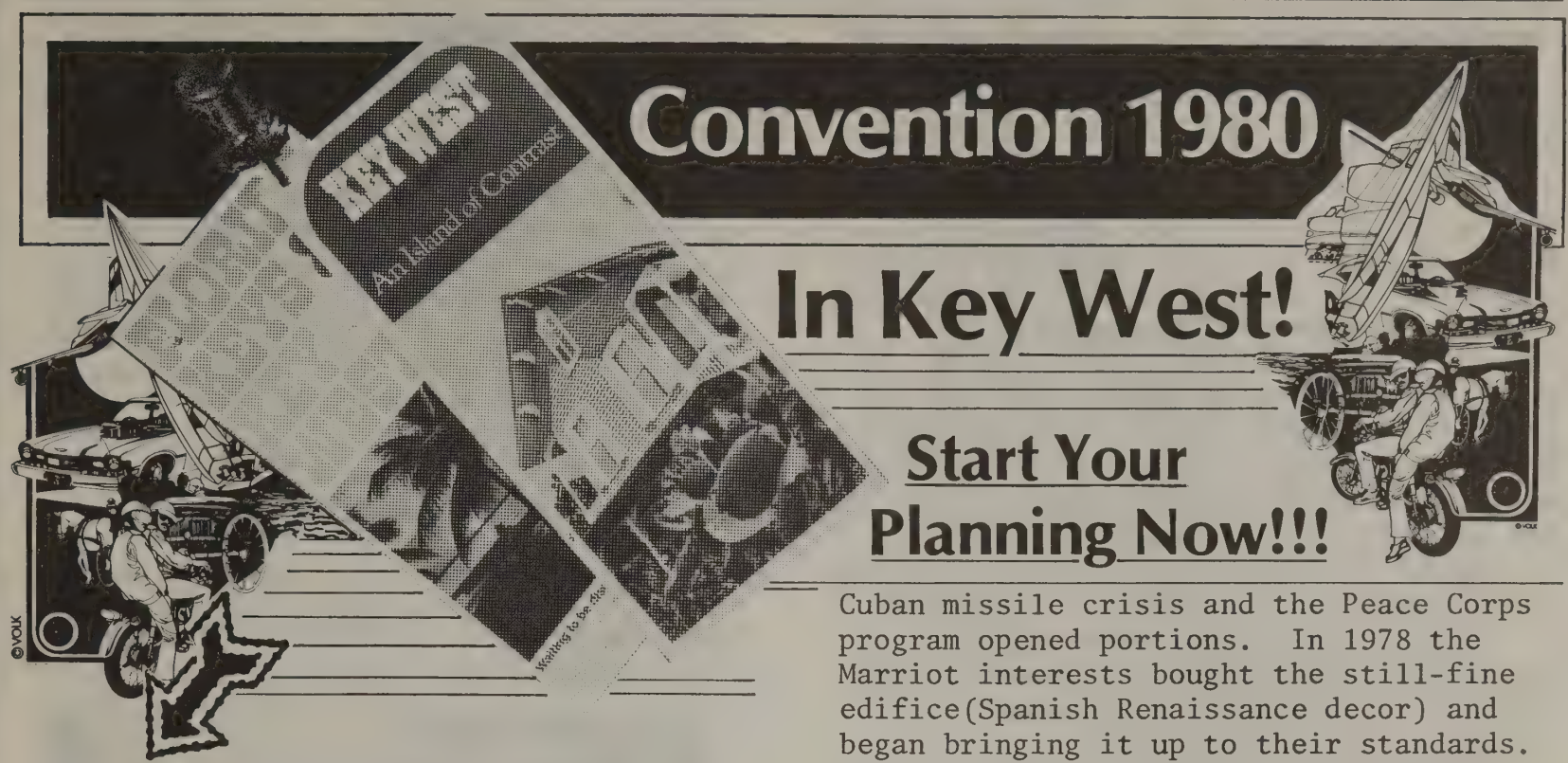
Determined to take some souvenir shells home for my collection I called in at a little shop and bought a *Cabestana spengleri*(live-collected), a *Monoplex australasiae* and a *Xenophora neozelanica* Suter, 1908(Carrier Shell)- all collected just several kilometers away! How these shells eluded us I shall never know.

(Debbie is a resident of Raumati South, Wellington, N.Z. She is a college student, and has collected shells for six years. Debbie has now taken up scuba-diving and has gained greater accessibility to many of the shells, especially the Cymatiidae, which are her favorite.)

"Grand Trophy"...Con't from Page 7

will be Mrs. Selma Lawson and Dr. R. Tucker Abbott. For further information write Mrs. Linda Bush; 311 N. Geyer; Kirkwood, MO., 63122.

The pre-convention field trip has been cancelled at this time...



The 1980 convention committee, members of the Florida Keys Shell Club, are planning a super convention to be held August 6th through 9th, in Key West. Many C.O.A. members have already shown interest in attending, which will be our 8th Annual convention. It will be a fun-filled four days of good friends, good times, and lots of shelling activities.

Some of the events being planned include a Conch Train tour of Key West, a field trip to Sand Key(a beautiful rock and sand atoll 4 miles southwest of Key West), the annual Auction of donated shells, book give-a-way, dealer's bourse(a dealer's marketplace), many slide presentations on various shelling topics, shell identification by some of the best known U.S. authorities, display of some outstanding shell collections, and more. The convention will end Saturday evening with the gala Banquet and a very special guest speaker.

The convention and accommodations were secured at the Casa Marina Inn, with rates pegged at 1979 level(single or double, $42; extra cot, $10).

The Casa Marina is Key West's largest(250 rooms) and finest hostelry. It was built by Henry Flagler in 1912, after completion of his famed East Coast Railroad whose roadbed and bridges you motorists will be using on your trip down the Keys. The 1935 hurricane wiped out the railroad and closed the Inn(hotel, then), except for brief intervals when World War II, the Cuban missile crisis and the Peace Corps program opened portions. In 1978 the Marriot interests bought the still-fine edifice(Spanish Renaissance decor) and began bringing it up to their standards. Now the rooms are modern, the restaurants, bar and pool are Key West's finest, it fronts directly on the Atlantic Ocean, and a spacious meeting room will be all ours, for the four days.

Convention and Hotel reservation forms will be in the mail to members in a short time. So start planning for this four day shelling event -- we'll be looking foward to meeting and greeting you!

"Grand Trophy"...Con't from Page 9

will again be awarded at the show. Further information can be obtained by writing Bob Morrell, c/o BSCC; 43, Eugene Gardens; Nottingham, NG2 3LF; England.

The PALM BEACH COUNTY SHELL SHOW will be held March 27-30, at the National Guard Armory, Lake Avenue, West Palm Beach, Florida, according to Jack Schmidt, Show Chairman. It is located five minutes from I-95 and five minutes from U.S. #1. Judges for the show will be Prof. Gilbert L. Voss of the Marine Lab in Miami, Tom Rice of Of Sea and Shore publications and Fran Thorpe, a charter member of the Greater Miami Shell Club.

The 1980 "Metropolitan Sea Shell Show" will be sponsored by the GREATER ST. LOUIS SHELL CLUB from April 11-13, at the Jewish Community Center-WOHL Building; 11001 Schuetz Rd. at Lindbergh; Creve Coeur, Missouri. Judges

(con't. on page 6)

Shells In...Con't from Page 5

Roberts who created the Shell Desk Diary, designed this book. I usually don't advocate coffee-table shell books, but found this to be a good introduction to the hobby and study of shells for the beginner and those who have not been totally convinced into this fascinating hobby. The color photographs and line illustrations are of equal to the Shell Desk Diary's of past. The chapters of the book cover various aspects from the animal inside the shell, the types of shells, collecting and cleaning shells, and a history of the hobby. The Foward is by Jack Lightbourn, known for his successful deep-water shell trapping in Bermuda. A very nice shell book in its category, to say the least.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: An INDEX TO THE NAUTILUS (Geographical-Vol. 1-90, and Scientific Names-Vol. 61-90) has been published under one cover by American Malacologists, Inc. The Scientific Names section was compiled by Louise Burrell Hastings, and the Geographical section by Margaret Crockett Teskey. It is a hard covered volume of 8½ X 11 size, with 238 pages... Vol. 94, No. 1 of THE NAUTILUS contained a description and illustration of "*Distorsio kurzi*, A New Cymatiid Gastropod From the Central Philippines," along with 16 other short papers on malacological topics... Number 7 in the series THE PARIAH, appeared in the beginning of February 1980. Articles included were "Cowry Notes" by Jerry G. Walls and Warren E. Burgess, "Status of *Conus caledonicus* Hwass, 1792" by David Hunt, and an Editorial by Walls, with his opinions on more newly named *Conus* species not covered in his CONE SHELLS OF THE WORLD... The Natal Shell Society (spin-off from the Conchological Society of South Africa), has published their first newsletter called REEFCOMBER. It is in a booklet format, and covers a variety of shell-newsworthy items. Interested parties may contact the Society by writing the Secretary, 21 Clark Road, Durban, 4001, South Africa... ROSSINIANA is the Bulletin of the Conchological Society of New Caledonia, and is published four times a year. Articles appear in English and French, and cover the shells and shelling in New Caledonia and adjacent areas. You may receive further information by writing the organization at 18, rue Henri-Bonneaud, B.P. 146, Noumea, New Caledonia... NEWSLETTER of the BRITISH SHELL COLLECTORS' CLUB is published quarterly, and contains may interesting articles on shells and shelling in Britian and throughout the world. More information on the club and their Newsletter can be obtained by writing 82A Denmark Villas, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3TJ, England. *Heard of any new books or publications? Let us know.*

Youthful...Con't from Page 3

The students have the opportunity to share their collection with us, and we research their favorite shells. The high point of the clubs are when the children come to see my collection, and are presented with shells or books provided by the school or library.

At the clubs we also discuss marine mammals, seabirds, various sea creatures and the problem of pollution and what we can do to help.

In my efforts, I hope to enlighten the children about the great diversity and delicacy of life in the ocean, and show that these treasures we get from the sea are not just trinkets, but homes of once living animals. I'm also hoping that someday these children may grow up to be future *Conchologists' of America*!

...but this does not mean you can't enjoy the Keys a bit earlier.

C.O.A. "Grand Trophy" 1980

(And Participating Shows)

The C.O.A. Shell Show Awards Committee announced that 21 shows will be giving the "Grand Trophy" in 1980. These shows have reported so far on the Award and winners:

The ASTRONAUT TRAIL SHELL CLUB held their second annual Shell Show on January 26 & 27, at Kiwanis Island, on Merritt Island, Florida. Set-up and judging took place the day before the opening. Judges included Russ Jensen, Delaware Museum of Natural History and his former associate Jerry Harasewych, and Charles Hertweck, President of the Sarasota Shell Club. Arts and crafts were judged by Patsy Kosinski of Patsy's Shell Shop and Vi Hertweck, show chairman of the Sarasota Club. A total of 71 entries and two non-competitive exhibits rounded out the show. The C.O.A. Award was presented by Award Committee Chairman, Dr. R. Tucker Abbott during the show banquet. The winners were Mr. and Mrs. James Bates of the Central Florida Shell Club for their beautiful exhibit of World-wide Shells in one 16 foot case. Show chairperson Bobbie Cordy also informed us that a special feature of their show this year was mini-talks (15 min.) and slide programs(1 hour) presented throughout the day in a small side room. Final consensus: Everyone felt the exhibits were of even better quality than last year!

The ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW was held from February 14-17, at the National Guard Armory, St. Petersburg, Fl. There were 63 entries with 800 linial feet of displays. Judges included Dr. Harry Lee of Jacksonville, Dr. Joseph Rosewater of Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and Gary Magnotte of Pompano Beach, Fl. This was St. Pete's 33rd Annual Show! The C.O.A. "Grand Trophy" winner was Gene Everson(Astronaut Trail's 1979 winner) of Ft. Lauderdale, with a display of *Cassis*.

The SARASOTA SHELL CLUB held its shell show from February 8-10 with exhibitors from all over Florida and also Tekemah, Nebraska, and Norton, Virginia. Judges were Dr. R. Tucker Abbott and Selma Lawson for scientific displays, and Cecelia Abbott and Karen Smith(local shell craft instructor) for shell art. Shell and Art dealer commissions, entrance fees(for approx. 3000 people) helped support the Marine Floating Lab. of the local high school and also displays in the Bishop Museum, Bradenton, Fl. The C.O.A. Award winner was Dr. L.C. Strong, Jr. of Norton, Va. with 61 ft. of the family *Volutidae*.

C.O.A. "Grand Trophy" presented at the SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CONCHOLOGIST SOCIETY was won by Charlie and Vi Hertweck of Venice Fl.(see Feed-back in this issue).

Their winning exhibit, "The Genus *Strombus*" contained 9 cases with a total frontage length of 20 ft. Species included were *Strombus goliath*, *S. oldi*, *S. haemastoma*, and almost all of the recent *Strombus* in pairs -- aperture up and down. Miocene *Strombus aldrichi* and *S. chipolanus* along with fossil *Strombus* found in Sarasota County were included. Albino *Strombus gigas*, *alatus*, *pugilus* and many South Pacific varieties also were displayed. The exhibit was broken down to sub-genera along with type species -- each sub-genera with a different colored labels. The Hertweck's exhibit also won the Blue Ribbon for the "One Genus" category and a cup for Best Scientific in their division.

Charlie and Vi are serious collectors of *Pectens*, Albinos(along with natural one of same size), and *Strombus*. They also collect fossil shells, and were recently made field associates of the Delaware Museum of Natural History by Russ Jensen!

The GREATER MIAMI SHELL CLUB held its 18th Shell Show from January 25-27. The C.O.A. Award was won by Corinne Edwards for Florida Fossil Shells with two cases equaling about four feet of frontage space. The show was a resounding success and The Mollusk(newsletter of the GMSC) reported that the club moved to donate $500 of the shell show proceeds to the Rosensteil School of Marine Sciences, where their monthly meetings are held. Show chairperson Fran Thorpe gave special Thanks to all those involved in making the shell show a big success.

C.O.A. members who plan to be in London on May 10, 1980, are invited to attend THE BRITISH SHELL COLLECTORS CLUB SHELL SHOW. The C.O.A. "Grand Trophy"

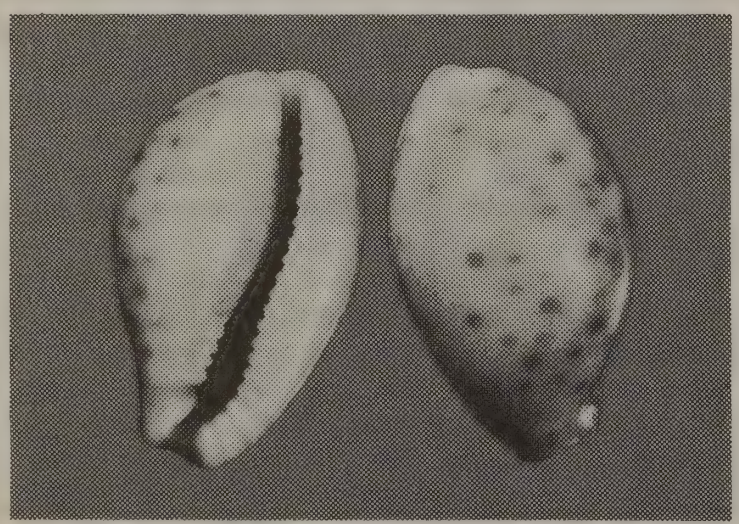
(con't. on page 7)

BEHIND THE DISCOVERY OF THE SECOND *Cypraea thomasi*

by Richard H. Jones, Cleveland, Ohio

During a prolonged business trip to Los Angeles, I spent a good many weekends at Tidepool Gallery going through their stock of cowries. It was the next best thing to real shell collecting. In a box with some beachworn *Cypraea macandrewi* Sowerby, 1870, I came across a shell which bothered me. It was identified as *Cypraea macandrewi* -- the dorsum was a bit worn, but the base showed little evidence of wear. After careful comparison with a number of *C. macandrewi*, I became convinced that the identification was wrong. At this juncture I decided to purchase the shell so I could spend more time trying to identify it.

After working with the shell for some time, I became convinced it was *Cypraea thomasi* Crosse, 1865. I felt I should obtain the opinion of an expert, so a careful description and poor picture were sent to Dr. C.M. Burgess, author of "The Living Cowries." His immediate reply was, "Please send the shell." In due course my tentative identification was confirmed; the shell was *C. thomasi*.



Cypraea thomasi Crosse, 1865- The second known specimen, in the collection of R.H. Jones. Photo by Bill Bledsoe.

The recent discovery of the first live-taken *C. thomasi* (third known specimen), in the collection of Taizo Ninomiya of Tokyo, with identical characteristics to the holotype (in the British Museum of Natural History) and my specimen, appears to resolve the status of this species. Of course an examination of the soft parts, if they become available, could change the story. However, the shell morphology of *Cypraea thomasi* is sufficiently unique that this possibility seems fairly remote.

My ersatz shell collecting paid off so-to-speak. Not only did I add a rare *Cypraea* to my collection, but also helped to clarify the status of a species.

(Ed. Note: Below is a list of articles for those wishing to pursue this subject further.)

Burgess, C.M., 1979. "Indubitably, a Second Cypraea thomasi." Hawaiian Shell News. Vol. XXVII, No. 7, p.1.

Cernohorsky, W.O., 1976. "A Tentatively Valid Species." Hawaiian Shell News. Vol. XXIV, No. 8, p.3.

Clover, Phillip W., 1978. "Status of Cypraea thomasi Crosse, 1865 (Mollusca: Cypraeidae)." The Pariah. No.4, p.5.

Donohue, Jerry, 1979. "The Saga of Cypraea thomasi Crosse, 1865 (Mollusca: Cypraeidae)." The Pariah. No.6, p.3.

Leehman, Elmer G., 1979. "Would You Believe A Live C. thomasi?" Hawaiian Shell News. Vol. XXVII, No. 9, p.3.

AUCTION

The Annual Auction of donated shells will be held at the 1980 C.O.A. Convention to be held August 6-9. The auction supports many activities of the C.O.A. including the "Grand Trophy," awarded at many shell shows around the country and overseas. The Bulletin is also supported in part, by the auction.

All donators will be acknowledged at the auction and in the post-convention issue of the Bulletin. Please send donations before July 1st, so that your shells may be included on the auction list.

All donations may be sent to *AUCTION CHAIRPERSON, Margaret Teskey; P.O. Box 273; Big Pine Key, FL., 33043*. Help make this our most successful auction yet. Better yet -- come join us too!

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN

NUMBER 20

A PREVIEW OF THE 1980 C.O.A. CONVENTION IN KEY WEST, FLORIDA!

Marriott's Casa Marina Resort, Key West will be the site of the 1980 CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA Convention, August 6-9. The Convention Committee, members of the Florida Keys Shell Club have lined up a super itinerary, one that you're not going to want to miss! The four day convention is pack-jammed with many shell-related activities, guaranteed to keep you going from morning 'til night.

Registration starts Wednesday morning, August 6, for those who did not preregister. The afternoon is set aside for welcome and opening announcements. The first slide presentations will follow. During a break, as on each day, there will be many new shell books donated by their publishers given as door prizes. The only catch is that you must be present to win and wearing your numbered registration badge. Small price to pay! Wednesday evening will be a Shrimp and beer party hosted by the Florida Keys Shell Club. Here's your chance to meet all the shell collectors attending from around the country.

Thursday morning, August 7, slide presentations will continue on various shelling trips and speakers' specialization of genera. In the past we've had talks by some of the best known U.S. authorities on shells, but no topics are too "heavy." The afternoon will continue with presentations, then, at 3:30, a complimentary Conch Train tour of Key West. The open-air tour will give you a good overview of Key West's sites for your further exploration later on. In the evening, the first of two Dealer's Bourse will be held. This is basically a shelling market place, where dealers from around the country will display their

(con't. on page 4)

CONVENTION-UPDATE

FIELD TRIP(Sand Key): The Convention Committee has informed us that there will be limited space on the field trip to Sand Key, scheduled for Friday afternoon, Aug. 8. It is very important to drop a note to the committee to let them know whether you are a diver, snorkeler, or beachcomber. Due to the shallow reef surrounding Sand Key, it will be necessary to swim to shore for beachcombing, since the boat cannot come in close. An equally good shoreline trip will be run if there are enough beachcombers, or an overload to Sand Key. Write Raymond Pease, 1207B Gilmore Dr. North, Key West, FL, 33040; state your name, address, type of collecting you intend to do(dive, snorkel, beachcomb), and whether you'll be able to swim over to the Key if the boat anchors in deeper water. Please write so the committee can plan accordingly.

Conchologists of America Inc.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, CONCHOLOGIST OF AMERICA, INC. was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Martin Lerner; 64 Thompson Ave.; Oceanside, N.Y., 11572
VICE-PRES.: Phyllis Pipher; 1116 "N" St.; Tekamah, Nebr., 68061
SECRETARY: Sally Jo Gray; 3943 Cornell Way; Eugene, Oregon, 97405
TREASURER: Clair Stahl; 3235 N.E. 61st St.; Portland, Oregon, 97213
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R. Wayne Stevens; 1835 N.E. 16th Ave.; Portland, Oregon, 97212
Richard H. Jones; 1432 Dorsh Rd.; South Euclid, Ohio, 44121

BULLETIN STAFF

EDITOR: Richard Goldberg
DESIGN DIRECTOR: Marc Goldberg

The BULLETIN is an official publication of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC., published quarterly in March, June, September and December. We invite you to submit any shell related items for inclusion in the BULLETIN. Address all BULLETIN correspondence to the EDITOR at 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane; Flushing, New York, 11365.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

INDIVIDUAL(per year) $5.00; FAMILY(receives one Bulletin) $7.00; OVERSEAS(Air Mail Postage) $10.00; Send check or money order to the TREASURER(address above).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems only like yesterday that I was honored by being elected President of the Conchologists of America, and here it is time for another convention and a new president...time moves quickly.

It has been an eventful year for the C.O.A., although there have been no striking developments. We have proceeded in regular order to almost double our membership; we have continued to award the prestigious "C.O.A. GRAND TROPHY" at shell shows throughout the world; and we have continued to publish a fine shell newsletter; we have almost completed our monograph on shell clubs throughout the country and we have completed a mailing to 6000 persons interested in shell collecting, inviting them to join with us as members of C.O.A.

We are now preparing for what appears to be the shell event of the year...our annual convention which will be held this year in Key West, Florida. In 1978 when the convention was held in Long Island, I said the Long Island Convention was a grand convention and could not be topped. In 1979, Jan and Ruth Greenberg and the Los Angeles Shellers proved me wrong when they held a super convention. This year the Florida Keys Shell Club, our hosts in Key West, have promised the most spectacular convention of all. To those of you who have had the opportunity and pleasure to attend past C.O.A. conventions you know what I mean!

We are expecting a huge turnout for the Key West convention. Many shell clubs have arranged to have groups of their members shelling the Keys the few days prior to the convention on the way down to Key West...I'm sure no one wants to miss this truly spectacular event of the shell year, so make your reservations now. I hope to meet you and greet you all in Key West in August.

On behalf of myself and all the current officers of the C.O.A., we thank you for the trust and faith you placed in us.

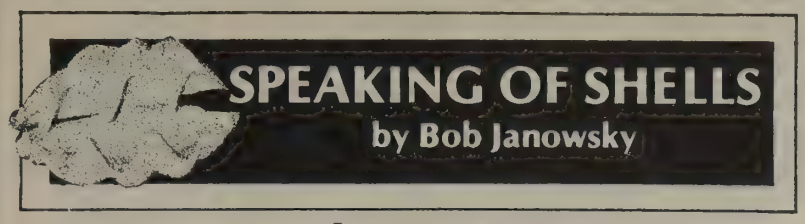
Martin Lerner

EDITORIAL

This issue completes one year since I took over as Editor of the Bulletin. It has been quite an experience but there are many people to thank in helping get each issue into production.

First off, I must thank all the members of C.O.A. for your support and well wishing. The Bulletin should reflect the interests of the membership, so your suggestions and ideas are most welcome. I must also thank the Executive Board for giving me the leeway to produce the Bulletin as I saw fit. I hope I didn't let anybody down! Personal thanks goes to Bob Janowsky who offered to write the "Speaking of Shells" column for each issue, and I hope he'll continue to do so in the future. I thank all of our other contributors of articles and information. Without you we would have to cut back on the size of an issue. And last but not least, I must thank my brother Marc. Without his skill using a T-square,

(con't. on page 7)



Western Atlantic Pterynotus

In this issue I would like to spend some time taking a look at an excellent paper entitled "REVIEW OF THE SUBGENUS *Pterynotus* (Gastropoda: *Muricidae*) IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC" by M.G. Harasewych and R.H. Jensen of the Delaware Museum of Natural History. The paper was published by the museum as *NEMOURIA #22* (Occasional Papers of the Delaware Museum of Natural History) on October 30, 1979, and is the most complete treatment of these very interesting and beautiful shells done to date. Probably of greatest interest in this paper is the descriptions of three new species of *Pterynotus* from the Western Atlantic -- *Pterynotus guesti* from 275 meters depth ESE off Key West, Florida; *Pterynotus lightbourni* from 275-600 meters off St. David's, Bermuda; and *Pterynotus radwini* from 296-329 meters off Turneffe Islands, Belize.

All three of the above new species are extremely rare and my examination of the type specimens at the Delaware Museum, a few months before the publication of this paper leaves no different conclusion from the author's about the validity of these new taxa. *Pterynotus guesti* is described as a small species, the holotype 28.6mm in length and the paratype 23.4mm(canal broken). The species according to the authors is similar to the Japanese *P. vespertilio* (Kira, 1959). It differs in being more elongate and having narrower varical webbing and a reddish brown color inside the aperture.

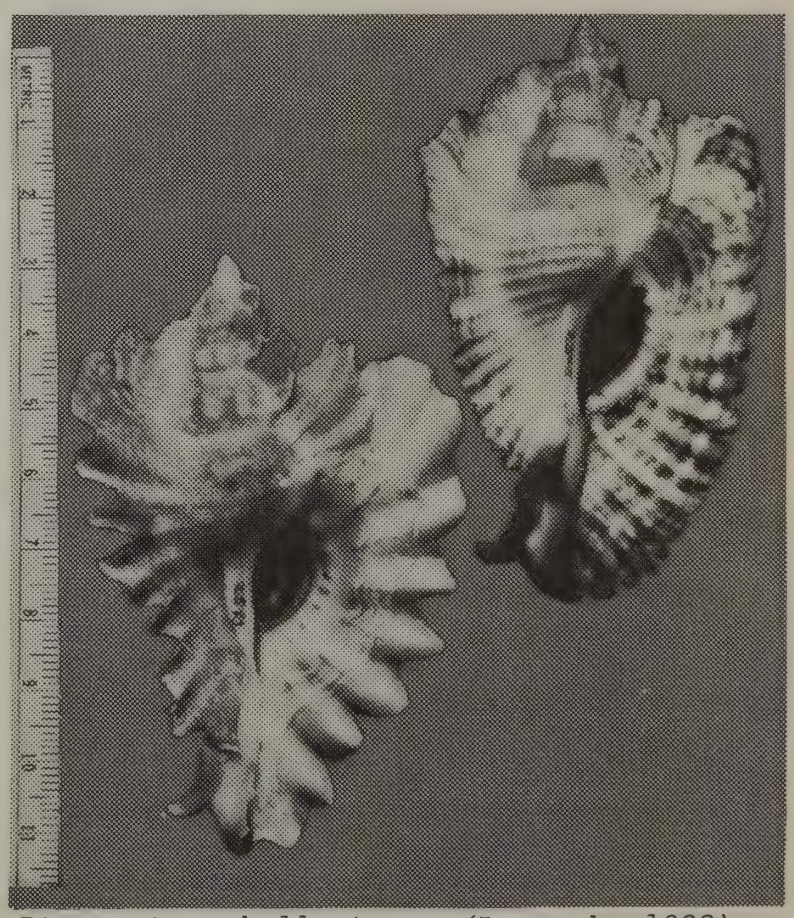
Pterynotus lightbourni is the smallest of the three new species described in the paper. The holotype measures 33.8mm and the two paratypes measure 38.6 and 37.0mm. This species seems to resemble most closely *P. leucas* (Locard, 1897), an extremely rare species from the eastern Atlantic. It differs in having a proportionally smaller aperture, wider varices and a single intervarical node which is not present in *P. leucas*.

Pterynotus radwini is 30.9mm in length and appears to be closely related to the *ocenebrine Pteropurpura macroptera* (Deshayes, 1839), but it does have a typically *muricine* operculum and radula.

Also in this paper is a thorough and detailed study of *Pterynotus phaneus* (Dall, 1889) in which the authors place in synonymy with the above species, *P. tristichus* (Dall, 1889), *P. pygmaeus* (Bush, 1893), *P. havanensis* E.H. Vokes, 1970, and *P. bushae* E.H. Vokes, 1970. The examination of 50 specimens of this widely distributed and variable species have led Harasewych and Jensen to the above conclusion which I soundly applaud since the boundaries between *P. phaneus* and the others mentioned have never been clear.

The balance of the paper is devoted to a species that has always been near and dear to me, *P. phyllopterus* (Lamarck, 1822). The authors point out that the species which is the largest *Pterynotus* in the Western Atlantic is still known only from a very limited area(Martinique and Guadeloupe), and that it is extremely variable in its color. I in fact know of no other member of this genus that exhibits so wide a range of color -- white, chocolate brown, brick red, yellow, pink, lavander, as well as the normal red/orange/brown combination.

(con't. on page 12)



Pterynotus phyllopterus (Lamarck, 1822) (left), with its closest relative in recent fauna, P. bednalli (Brazier, 1878) (right). Photo by George Raeihle.

A Preview... Con't from Page 1

wares for purchase or just browsing. It's a Sheller's department store! Last year some of the rarest shells were on display for sale as well as beautiful common species. This year plans to be just as great.

Friday, August 8, in the A.M., there will be more slide presentations. Then get ready in the afternoon for the field trip to Sand Key (see article on page 14 in this issue on Sand Key). There will be something for everyone on this trip -- from tank diving, snorkeling and shallow water rock turning. Bring you gear! If the demand is great, a shore trip will also be run. Friday evening is the Annual Auction of donated shells. Over 200 worldwide shell dealers have been contacted for specimen contributions. We hope all of our members can contribute specimens as they have done so generously in the past. Donations can be sent to Margaret Teskey, P.O. Box 273, Big Pine Key, FL, 33043. The auction is always loads of fun -- let's make this our best year yet.

Saturday morning, August 9, the final presentations will be given, followed by the annual Group Photo at noon. The Annual Business Meeting will be held in the P.M. and the second Dealers' Bourse until late afternoon. In the evening, a cocktail party (Dutch) will be followed by the Convention Banquet. Our very special guest speaker will be Dr. R. Tucker Abbott. There will also be some very entertaining added extra attractions. What a great way to close a convention.

If you have never attended a C.O.A. convention, why not make this your first! They are lots of fun with good times for all. See you there!

*If you have not received the Convention and Hotel registration forms you may write Margaret Teskey at the above address and the Casa Marina Resort at Reynolds St. on the ocean, Key West, FL, 33040 respectively. Hotel rates are $42.00 a day for a deluxe single or double. The Hotel requests the first night's deposit before they can process your reservation. Rooms have been set aside from August 6-10, and requests for accommodations prior to and after the convention dates will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel check-in time is 4:00 P.M. and check-out time is 12:00 noon. Your registration fee of $10.00 per person may be sent to Ann Young, P.O. Box 2559, Marathon Shores, FL., 33052. *After August 1, registration fee will be $12.00. The registration fee covers all expenses other than hotel, meals, field trip, group photo and banquet.*

Legislation to reauthorize and improve the 1972 COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT(CZM) and to protect "barrier islands" is beginning to move through Congress.

Members of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA should join with other members of the Coastal Alliance to push for strongly worded amendments that would require states to:

*protect such critical coastal resources as wetlands, estuaries, fish and wildlife habitat, beaches, dunes and barrier islands;

*direct coastal development away from ecologically sensitive areas;

*prevent development in high hazard areas; and

*provide access to the coast, consistent with protection of critical resources.

In the absence of a state program, the federal government should be required to develop a program to protect critical areas from federal activities.

Also in the hopper is a bill(HR 5981) designed to protect barrier islands. It would designate islands or parts of islands that should be protected, authorize the National Park Service to acquire undeveloped barrier islands and prohibit the issuance of federal permits and subsidies for roads, bridges, and shoreline stabilization structures on designated islands.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Urge your members of Congress to support the improvements in the CZM Act listed above. Tell them that the Coast Alliance has worked hard to help develop good state programs, but that improvements are critical if those programs are to be fully successful. Urge all members of Congress, especially those on the House Interior Committee to cosponsor HR 5981.

Year of the Coast activities are being organized in many areas. For information, contact COAST ALLIANCE, 918 F Street, N.W. Suite 310, Washington, D.C., 20004.

SHELLS IN PRINT

By Richard Goldberg

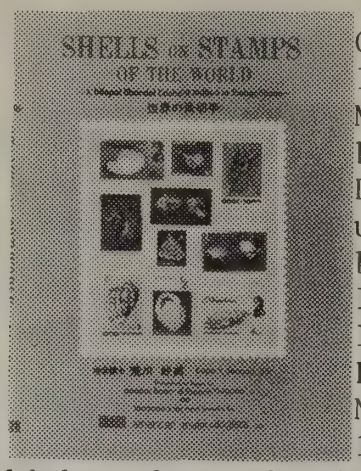
RARE SHELLS OF TAIWAN IN COLOR by T.C. Lan has recently been published by the author, and distributed to those who had paid in advance. This high quality all color hard bound book covers 78 of the rarest species collected around the shores of Taiwan by fishing trawlers. Many have never been pictured in any popular shell book or periodical. Although not endemic to Taiwan, many are classified as some of the most sought after rare shells today. Two or more views are given of each shell.

Part 2 has many freak shells collected around Taiwan, with some humorous comments by the author! Part 3 illustrates Coralloid Shells, or shells entrapped in coral growths. Not only are the shells rare, but some of the corals too. Part 4 pictures National Treasure Shell Arts. Some intricate cameo carvings are included here. Part 5 includes a few Taiwan Shell Postage Stamps. There's something for everyone.

The photography and color reproduction are excellent, with the finest detail visible. The shells are figured larger than life -- some magnified many times. Genera covered include *Cypraea, Conus, Latiaxis, Teramachia, Fulgoraria, Typhina, Pterynotus, Murexsul, Mitra, Terebra, Dentalium, Epitonium, Primovula, Trigonostoma, Ficus, Homalopoma, Cantharus, Babylonia, Echinophoria, Pecten, Calliostoma, Pleurotomaria,* and more. One of your favorites is here for sure!

The layout is very convenient, with the color plate on the left-hand side of the page and the text(in Chinese and English) on the right, in most cases. The latin name, author and date is followed by a short description, size, locality off Taiwan, and brief comment. The book and paper cover are wrapped by a plastic dust protector, a feature I'd like to see on more shell books. It adds to the longevity of the exterior.

Obviously,a lot of time and effort was expended in the production of RARE SHELLS OF TAIWAN, and if we were to rate a shell book like a specimen shell, I'd say this is a Gem!



SHELLS ON STAMPS OF THE WORLD-A Bilingual, Illustrated Catalog of Mollusca on Postage Stamps by Kohman Y. Arakawa, D.Sc., has been distributed in North America by American Malacologists, Inc., Melbourne, Florida. It was published by the Biological Society of Nagasaki Prefecture in 1979, and received the highest honor in the field of philatelic literature at the 1979 Japan Philatelic Exhibition.

It contains a descriptive listing of over 1,500 kinds of shell stamps from 150 countries from 1840 to 1978. In a recent review by Dorothy Raeihle in New York Shell Club Notes she says:

On examining this volume one can easily understand why it won highest honors in its field. Dr. Arakawa has compiled a mass of information and arranged it in lists according to category with cross references. Do you want to know if a certain country has issued shell-stamps? How many times the pink conch, *Strombus gigas*, has been pictured on a postage stamp, and when, and by whom? What genera are most often pictured? Has our local hard clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, ever appeared on a stamp? Answers to these and so many more questions are good for hours of browsing for the average collector as well as the *malacophilatelist*(a new word to describe collectors of shell-stamps, for whom this book is a "must").

There are several listings, all informative. First of the two main ones is "Catalogue by Countries showing Shell Designs." The countries are listed in alphabetical order, numbered in sequence, and the monetary system noted. There follows in chronological order the shell-stamps issued by that country, each with a description giving year, month and day of issue, frequently noting whether engraving, painting or photo, a code reference if listed in a stamp catalogue (symbols for Scott's, Gibbons & Minkus), the number in such catalogue, the denomination of the stamp, a description of

(con't. on page 10)

C.O.A. "Grand Trophy" 1980

(And Participating Shows)

The C.O.A. Grand Trophy winner at the 1980 BROWARD COUNTY SHELL SHOW was Sophie Bressler of Pompano Beach, Florida. This was the 16th annual show for the Broward club.

Sophie exhibited *Muricidae*, entered in the "One Family-Major, collected in any manner" category. She presented over 300 specimens of worldwide *Murex*, exhibited on black velvet in 26 cases(24" X 12" each), extending over 30 feet in length. The display also won a Blue Ribbon in the entered category.

Sophie started collecting shells five years ago when she moved to Florida. Before then, she lived in London and had no contact with shells. Her interest was sparked when she was invited to the Broward Shell Show in 1975 by a friend. Sophie was so intrigued by what she saw, that she started to look for some in her area. A display of a few hundred shells collected by Sophie entered in the 1976 Broward Show won her second place in the "Beginning Collector" category.

From then on she became a more serious collector, entering future Broward and other Florida shows, winning a Blue Ribbon in each case. In 1979 Sophie displayed over 150 species of West African shells which

C.O.A. Grand Trophy winner at the Broward Shell Show, Sophie Bressler, poses with her award and display of Muricidae.

won Blue Ribbon, Judge's Special Award, and "Best exhibit not confined to Caribbean Province.

Sophie's first love though, is the *Murex* family, and she said it made her really happy to receive the C.O.A. Award for her *Murex* Collection.

THE FORT MYERS SHELL CLUB SHOW, was held from February 9-11 at the Ramada Inn, in downtown Fort Myers. This was their 16th show and held in conjuction with the Edison Pageant of Light. The Fort Myers Shell Club News reported a good turnout for the show with quality displays. There were 22 competitive and 7 non-competitive displays. The judges were Tom Rice, editor of Of Sea and Shore, and Al Deynzer, shell dealer.

The Fort Myers newsletter went on to say...the coveted "Conchologists of America" Trophy and certificates went to Don Moody for his outstanding exhibit of Cones.

The Georgia Shell Club held the second annual GEORGIA SHELL SHOW March 29-30 at the Fernbank Science Center, Atlanta. Over 5000 visitors viewed 69 displays(34 scientific, 102 cases, 250 feet of display area) in the 1½ day show. Judges were R.Tucker Abbott, Jerome Bijur, Ed Thompson, Cecelia Abbott and Lucia King.

The Grand Trophy winner at the Georgia show was Peter Maltese of Atlanta, for "World *Cypraea*" entered in the "One Genus" category. The exhibit consisted of seven cases and a total length of 30 feet. A worldwide collection of *Cypraea* was displayed with mirrors placed to show the base of the shell. They were displayed in jewelry cases, giving greater depth and visability. Species such as *Cypraea valentia*, *leucodon*, *porteri*, *langfordi*, etc. were displayed. Peter had all the species(Burgess ref.)except 11. A living *Cypraea cervus* was placed at the end of the exhibit, and was of great interest to the public. A conchological chart of the Cowrie's characteristics was used to show the makeup of the animal.

Edward Sarkin of Ft. Lauderdale won the C.O.A. Award at the PALM BEACH COUNTY SHELL SHOW with an exhibit entitled "The *Fasciolariidae* of Caribbean Province." The exhibit was 15 feet long and included over 40 species of the family *Fasciolariidae*. It was entered in the "Educational Scientific" category. Ed's exhibit also won "The Most Beautiful Exhibit Trophy," and 1st Place-Blue Ribbon in its class.

Edward also won the C.O.A. Grand Trophy at THE SANIBEL SHELL FAIR SHOW for "Caribbean Province Marine Mollusks." The

exhibit was 45 feet long and included shells from Florida to the lower Caribbean. It was entered in the "Florida-Caribbean; any source" category. It also received 1st Place-Blue Ribbon in its category. Ed has been collecting shells for about five years and does most of his collecting around Florida and the Bahamas. Ed's interest is in putting together a good Caribbean Province collection. He also collects world wide *Terebra*.

OOPS! PLEASE MAKE A CORRECTION. In Bulletin #19 we mentioned that Corinne Edwards won the C.O.A. Award at the Miami Shell Show. Please change that to Mary Palmer, who is a member of the Broward Shell Club. Her exhibit was also fifty feet in length, not four; Sorry!

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

If you have moved within the past year and did not foward your new address to us, please send it along to Sally Jo Gray, 3943 Cornell Way, Eugene, Oregon, 97405. The Bulletin is mail presorted Third Class, and if provisions were not made for fowarding this class of mail, it is discarded...To expidite answering specific problems and questions, it is suggested to send all membership-related letters to Sally at the above address. Dues and other payments should be sent to Mr. Clair Stahl, 3235 N.E. 61st Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97213. Newsletter-related questions and the like should be sent to the Editor at 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365...If you have not received the Convention and Hotel registration forms at this point write Margaret Teskey, P.O. Box 273, Big Pine Key, Florida, 33043...*Susan Marie Clover, 25-year-old daughter of members Mr. and Mrs. Phil Clover, died early in March at San Francisco, after a long battle with leukemia. Our deepest sympathies are extended to the Clover's over their loss*...Shell Shows participating in the C.O.A. Grand Trophy Award Program should foward information about their show to the editor so that it may be included with the writeup on the Grand Trophy Winners. Pictures are always welcome, and will be returned after published in the issue.

FEED-BACK...FEED-BACK...FEED-BACK

Some more Feed-Back on the C.O.A. Awards Program:

...I understand that Bobbi Cordy has already written you most of the news concerning our show(Astronaut Trail Shell Show-see Bulletin #19) at Kiwanis Island, held in January of this year. I was awaiting some pictures to enclose with my letter and I just acquired them at our recent Club meeting.

We wish to thank your organization for the Trophy, and its accompanying benefits which were provided. This "Second Annual Astronaut Trail Shell Show" was a tremendous success, as was our first. Twenty-three categories were well represented.

We will be hoping for your participation again in our 1981 Show, and will contact you later in the year. Again Thanks,

Eddy Carroll
Awards Committee Chairman
Astronaut Trail Shell Club

Dr. R.Tucker Abbott, C.O.A. Awards Chairman, eyes the Grand Trophy Display of Mr. and Mrs. James Bates, at The Astronaut Trail Shell Show, reported in our last issue. The show was in January 1980.

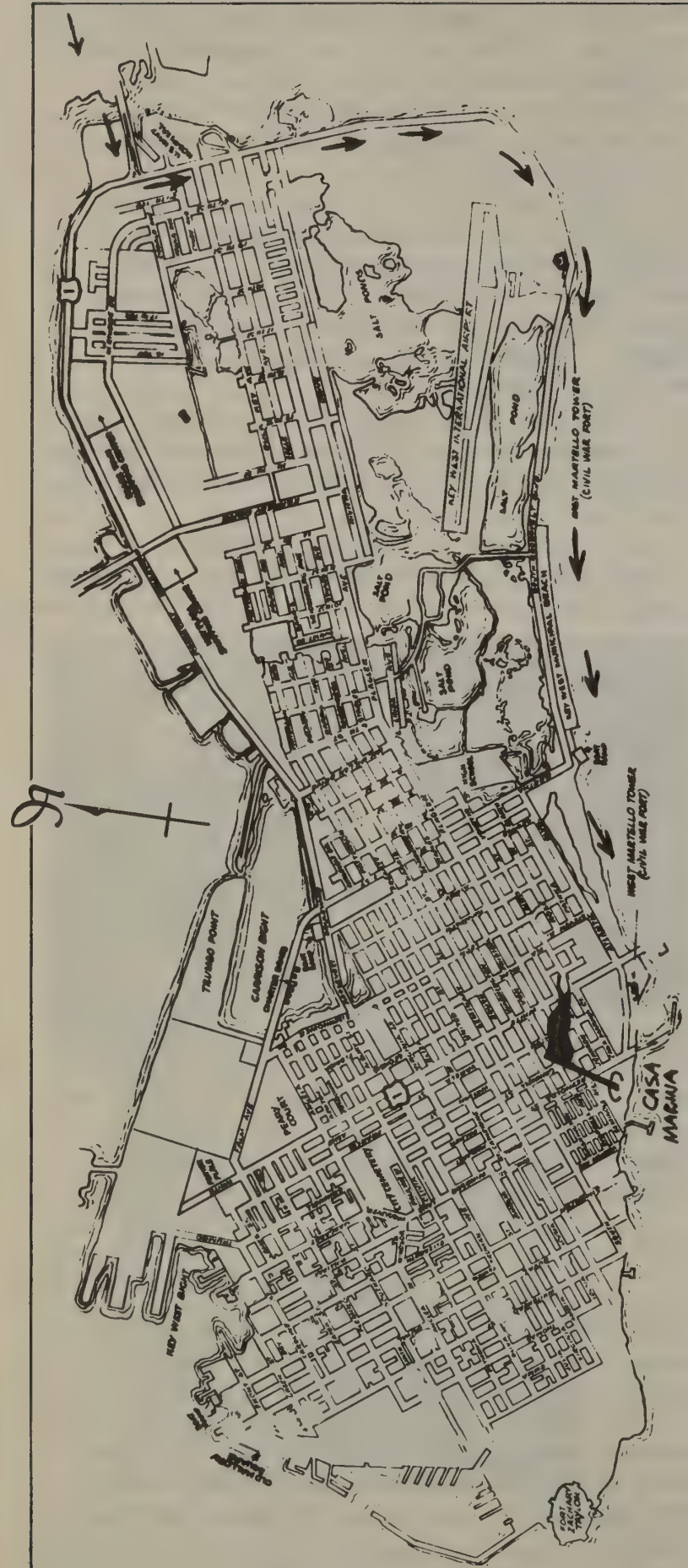
EDITORIAL...Con't from Page 2

razor blade and rubber cement, the Bulletin would just be a typewritten newsletter.

I hope to be seeing many of you at the convention in Key West. As members who have attended previous conventions will attest to, they are loads of fun. See ya then...

Richie

ALL ROADS LEAD TO KEY WEST



For those of you who have never been to the Florida Keys, you'll find the journey across Overseas Highway(U.S. 1) a unique experience. Once you enter the Florida Keys, Overseas Highway will be your one route to Key West. Marathon will be an approximate half way point to your destination, Key West. Your might want to stop for a snack or lunch, depending on when you pass through.

The accompanying map of Key West will give you some idea of how to get to the Casa Marina Resort, via the waterfront route. While still on Overseas Highway, you'll enter Key West with a choice of going right (north) into Searstown, or left (south) to the beaches. For the waterfront route, bear left. This will put you on South Roosevelt Blvd. Follow South Roosevelt Blvd. to the end, which leads into Bertha St. Take Bertha St. a short distance and make the first left onto Atlantic Blvd. Take Atlantic Blvd. to the end, and you will be at your destination, the Casa Marina Resort.

These are the most direct directions to the hotel. If you are adventurous, taking Roosevelt Blvd. past Searstown into Old Town will give you a scenic view of quaint homes that give Key West its charm. To take this route, once you enter Key West, bear right onto Roosevelt Blvd. Follow Roosevelt Blvd. past Searstown into Old Town. At White St., make a left(south) and follow to Casa Marina Court. Make a right on Casa Marina Court and follow to Reynolds St., and the Casa Marina Resort.

Which ever route you take, all roads lead to Key West -- we'll be looking foward to seeing you there!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE KEYS:
Upper Keys; Key Largo, 33037
Islamorada; Islamorada, 33036
Greater Marathon; Marathon, 33050
Lower Keys; Big Pine Key, 33043
Greater Key West; Key West, 33040
DISTANCE FROM MIAMI: Key Largo-58 miles; Islamorada-76 miles; Marathon-111 miles; Big Pine Key-128 miles; Key West-159 miles.

BETTER IDEAS FOR SHELL COLLECTORS

BY Minicyp

The following column will be a regular feature of THE BULLETIN. It will hopefully provide helpful hints on the mechanics of everything from shell collecting to exhibiting.

Almost every collector has come up with a "better idea" to solve a problem associated with shell collecting. Some of these ideas have been born because of pure desperation. Other ideas have been the results of careful development. We are leaving this column open to you! Your contribution will make up the heart of this feature. If these ideas, whatever the genesis, are shared with other collectors, we can all benefit.

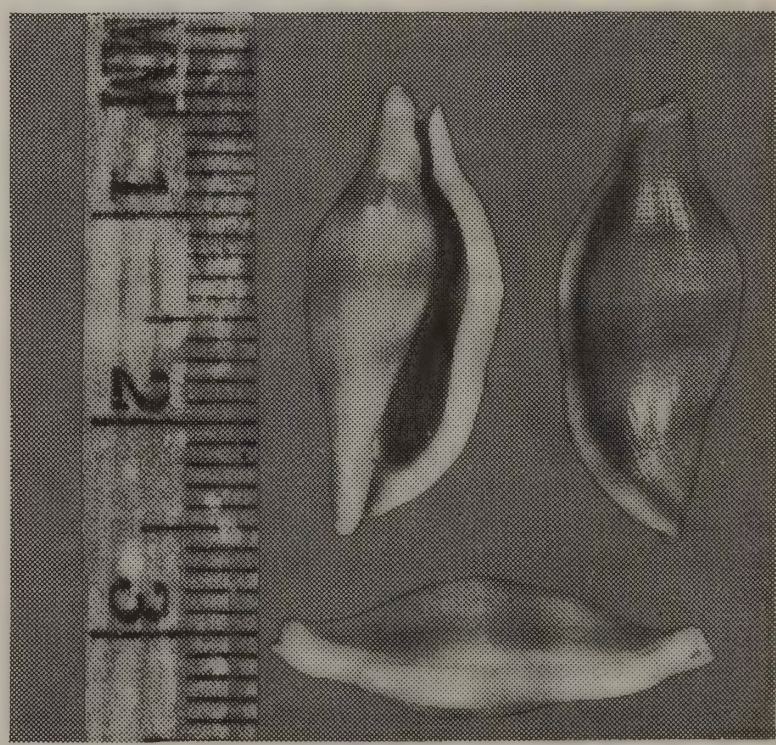
Here are some guidelines to follow:
1)Send your "better idea" to BETTER IDEAS, c/o R.H. Jones; 1432 Dorsh Road, South Euclid, Ohio, 44121. Just jot down the idea and mail it off. If a sketch or illustration is needed to illustrate the idea, please send it along. Photo's and slides will be returned after prepared for publishing. All ideas are welcomed, no matter how small. If commerical equipment is needed to do the job, please let us know where it is available. Frequently just knowing where some odd-ball piece of equipment can be purchased is a "Better Idea." Specific suppliers will not be identified in this column. Collectors wishing to know the name of a supplier of specific equipment can write the author enclosing a Self Address Stamped Envelope for a reply. If we don't know of a supplier, we will inquire through the column.
2) If you have a specific problem, let us know. If we cannot answer your question, it will be published in this column for our membership to possibly reply. If you require a separate reply, enclose at S.A. S.E. As you see, this will also help to identify subjects for future discussion in this column.
3) Please, only questions on the mechanics of shell collecting. We are not in a position to do shell identification. Questions on shelling locations, where specific shells can be procured, etc., cannot be answered.

The whole idea of this column is to provide a forum for collectors to share their ideas on the mechanics of shell collecting and answer pending problems. In-other-words, a clearing house for questions and answers -- Lets hear from You!

So you're coming to the convention. Great!! You probably hope to do some collecting. The collecting in the Florida Keys is great. If shell collecting is on your agenda you will need some equipment to collect, clean, and carry shells home. There is nothing more frustrating than trying to find something you need for these tasks in a strange location. Thus the following check list of handy dandy items to bring along. It includes everything from absolute necessities to "what the heck do I need that for" items. I'm

(con't. on page 13)

"AN ODD OVULID"



The above Ovulid sp. was collected by C.O.A. member James Ernest in West Panama. The color is light beige with brown bands and a pale yellow lip and extremities. The dorsal surface is striate and smooth below. Do any of you Ovulid or Panamic specialist recognize this one? No habitat information accompanied the shell. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

Shells In...Con't from Page 5

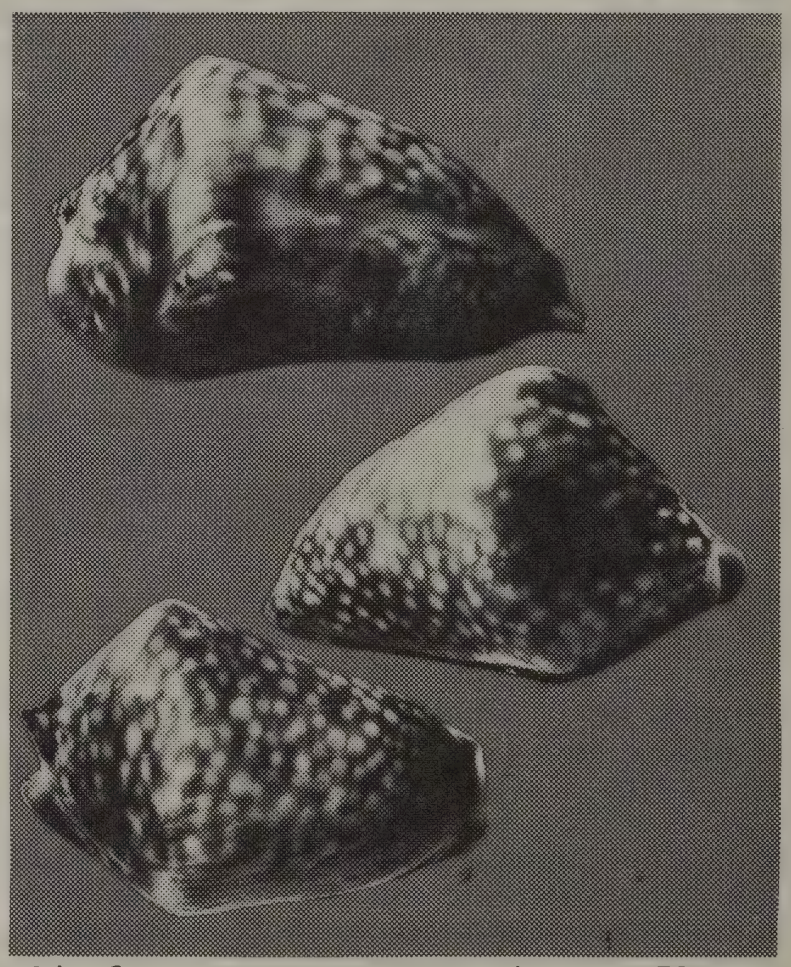
the illustration, and reference to the systematic index.

The reader must first become acquainted with the "Key to Symbols and Lettering used on the Catalogue by Countries" on page 64, and the "Notice to users"(of the "Systematic Index...") at the bottom of page 206. These instructions are sufficient, but we remain curious about the introductory pages written in Japanese.

Inevitably in translations there are language problems resulting in typographical errors. A number are present in this book, but in context are easily understood and smilingly forgiven(*The Bulletin thanks Dorothy for letting us use her review for publication.)*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: A timely article in keeping with the Key West Convention issue was published in SEA FRONTIERS entitled "The Florida Out-Islands and Their Unique Animals" by Charles D. Getter and Edward J. Petuch, in the May-June 1980 issue. It deals with endemic fauna to the Florida Keys, with some ecological notes. The mollucan fauna is covered here with some interesting facts. SEA FRONTIERS is published bimonthly by The International Oceanographic Foundation, 3979 Rickenbacker Causeway, Virginia Key, Miami, Florida, 33149, and is distributed to its members...The June 1980 issue of SKIN DIVER magazine has two shell-related articles -- "Golden Cowry Dive," by Scott Johnson, about finding and photographing the *Cypraea aurantium* on a night dive, and "The Caribbean Conch," by Gary D. Wescott, about the animal as an epicurean delight; recipes included...LEVANTINA and ARGAMON, ISRAEL JOURNAL OF MALACOLOGY are two publications of the Israel Malacological Society and includes articles of interest to collectors and professionals of the local and worldwide mollusks. LEVANTINA is published bimonthly(newsletter), and ARGAMON is an irregularly issued booklet. Further information is avaiblable through Henk K. Mienis(Publications Editor) Israel Malacological Society, Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, 70-395, Israel...MAPPA, publication of the French Shell Collector's Club is a slick magazine-type newsletter issued quarterly. With french text, it covers interesting articles on shell collecting and particular families and species. High quality photographs illustrate the articles, and the cover of MAPPA is in color. Further information may be obtained by writing Yves DeManuele, 26,boulevard Poissonniere, 75009 Paris, France...KEPPEL BAY TIDINGS is published by the Keppel Bay Shell Club, P.O. Box 166, North Rockhampton Queensland 4701, Australia. This high quality newsletter covers shells and shell collecting in Australia, with club notes and information. KEPPEL BAY TIDINGS will keep you up-to-date with shelling activities down under...*Heard of any new shell books or publications? LET US KNOW.*

HUMP-BACKED COWRIE



This freak Cypraea cervus Linne, 1771 was collected by C.O.A. member Raymond Pease off Key West, Florida Keys. Its unusual hump is reminiscent of the Hump-backed Cowrie, Cypraea mauritiana Linne, 1758. Raymond said that the animal's mantle was damaged very badly and could not retract totally back into the shell. The shell is approximately 4½ inches in length. It was taken in 6 to 8 feet of water in discarded concrete conduit pipes. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

IT ISN'T JUST THE SHELLS

by Corinne E. Edwards, Coconut Grove, FL.

Greater Miami Shell Club tries for a Field Trip, Picnic at a Beach Park, Christmas Party, Pot-Luck-Dinner, Auction, Shell Show or something extra every month. Often it is at these affairs that we get to know our fellow members best. At shell club meetings a lively Secretary's Report, a Mini-Education Talk, a Raffle of donated shells and the Program are always good -- but in an auditorium one may see a friend or wave to someone, and only the most aggressive of us get around much.

Many of us also belong and attend Broward Shell Club up at Pompano Beach and/or Palm Beach County Shell Club in West Palm Beach. All three east coast Florida shell clubs were founded in 1961-1962. Many Charter Members are still members and all three clubs publish a good monthly paper -- THE MOLLUSK, THE BUSYCON and SEAFARI. The Miami club's emblem is *Strombus gigas* Linne, 1758, the Queen Conch, and we dignified our original publication name from MOLLUSK CHASER. Broward's emblem is *Busycon contrarium* (Conrad, 1840), the Left-handed Whelk and they dignified their paper from BUSYCON BUGLE. Palm Beach's emblem is *Argonauta argo* Linné, 1758, the Paper Nautilus, and their club paper has always been SEAFARI.

Eighty shellers, members, guests, and quite a few children swarmed over acres and acres of mud and rubble flats above the Finger Channels off Cape Florida Light on a recent field trip. Shells were there, but there were no startling finds or overabundance of shells, but there was a very friendly bunch of field trippers. We had all sorts of chances to wade along with someone, identify shells now and then, explain how to clean a shell's outside or explain that a dead shell was choice and it would clean up nicely. There was always someone here who would identify crabs or a Burr Fish or a Sea Cucumber. There were several species of Sea Stars and Sea Urchins and someone to tell a newcomer to beware of *Diadema antillarum* with its long, black, menacing spines(but don't confuse it with the much sought-after *Arbacia punctulata* whose spines are not quite so long). Some searched for the rather solitary *Eucidaris tribuloides*, the Club-Spined Urchin(but please don't call it a Slate Pencil Urchin).

We warned one another not to disturb, but to seek out and marvel at clusters of *Murex pomum* Gmelin, 1791, the Apple Murex, laying their yellow egg capsules in a community mass. We saw one with about 8 or 10 *Murex* in a dead half of *Atrina rigida* (Lightfoot, 1786), the Stiff Pen Shell. We saw the less common *Pinna carnea* Gmelin, 1791, the Amber Pen Shell, but not *Atrina serrata* (Sowerby 1825), the Saw-toothed Pen Shell so common at Sanibel. It's not found here on the east coast. Someone found two nice big *Xenophora conchyliophora* (Born, 1780), the Atlantic Carrier Shell, covered with the same coral and rubble that covers most of the Finger Channel Flats. We looked over many shell and rubble carrying sea urchins but when one sees a Carrier Shell, they know it at once.

Although there were plenty of T-Shirts from Miami, Broward and Palm Beach clubs, there were also all sorts of outlandish costumes, floppy hats, gloves and husband's shirts. There were great expanses of exposed bare flesh on those clad only in bathing suits. There were long sleeves and long pants on the more cautious ones. We preach, "wear socks and sneakers tied on tight," due to the muddy areas and rubble, but would you believe Zori slippers, flippers, sneakers without laces and even leather shoes?

Many buckets held *Oreaster reticulatus*, the Cushion Star, but some were too big for buckets or preserving containers. They should have been left just so someone else could marvel at their size and enjoy them as they came upon them. Some buckets held *Strombus gigas* Pink Rollers(young Queen's) though most of us don't take these immature Conchs, but some could not resist the gorgeous pink and yellow apertures. These rollers were everywhere so taking a few would not deprive *Menippe mercenaria*, the Stone Crab, or *Pleuroploca gigantea* (Kiener, 1840), the Florida Horse Conch, of their food source. We do not like to

(con't. on page 12)

It Isn't Just...Con't from Page 11

see small orange Horse Conchs taken, but anyway, we never see them out on these flats. On our Spring field trip year after year, a few good big ones are taken to be treasured as the find of the day. *Pleuroploca gigantea* is our official State Shell as of June 18, 1969 -- once it was carefully described on the Florida maps given out by Welcome Stations, but the picture was of a *Strombus gigas*, the Queen Conch. The 1980 maps picture our State Flower, Bird, Tree, etc., but not our State Shell. Why can't the thousands of shelling enthusiasts get their Congressmen to get us a series of postage stamps with sea shells on them? *(Ed. Note: Right On Corinne! Maybe this is another project the C.O.A. can pursue -- Think about it!)*

Our shell bags, buckets, pockets or shelling aprons carry little bottles for miniature adult shells such as *Melanella intermedia* (Cantraine, 1835), the glossy white Cucumber Melanella found living as a parasite on a black Sea Cucumber. We carry a knife, sharp or stainless steel, to poke at scary things or flip a *Fissurella barbadensis* (Gmelin, 1791), the Barbados Keyhole Limpet, from off a dead shell. Children were intrigued with our east coast sea stars, *Echinaster sentus*, and brittle Stars that turned up in big, old dead Queen Conchs. Now and then a tiny *Octopus jubini* was cowering in a dead pair of *Codakia orbicularis* (Linne, 1758), the Tiger Lucine, or some other bivalve shell, that the conservative members who were only taking dead shells, picked up to clean. Bittersweet, Prickly, Yellow and Strawberry Cockles, *Chione* and other bivalves were plentiful, probably having been fed on by Sea Stars or had lived out their lives. Many dead univalve shells displayed a small hole where *Natica canrena* (Linne, 1758), the Colorful Atlantic Moon Snail, might have fed on them.

We shared our duplicates with others, so they might have one of each specimen, dead or alive, from the Finger Channel Flats. We named shells casually for beginners urging them to look them up in Abbott's paperback, SEASHELLS OF NORTH AMERICA which is so great to *eye-dentify* shells and to read and learn of their food, egg cases, close relatives and habitat.

Before the 80 shellers were boated back to shore, hair was bedraggled, sun burns were being covered up too late, and those who had been snorkeling, felt the April chill in the air. Shelling buckets were heavy so there would be shells on the kitchen sink in many a household for the next few days as cleaning went on to make dead shells look presentable for show or shellcraft.

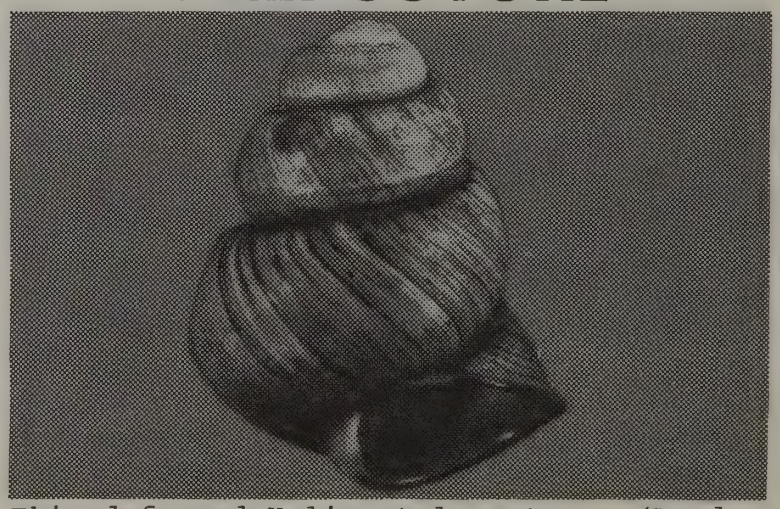
We got to know each other a little better as goodbyes, "See you at the shell club" were said. We then eased into the snail pace line of cars leaving Key Biscayne and Virginia Key on a Sunday late afternoon.

Speaking Of...Con't from Page 3

In this section is the first discussion and illustration of the radula of this species which was studied and drawn by A. D'Attilio who extracted it from the specimen of *P. phyllopterus* illustrated here. Also shown is an Australian *P. bednalli* (Brazier, 1878), its closest relative in the recent fauna. The *P. phyllopterus* is in my collection *#2521* and is 84.9mm in length, collected off Ste. Anne, Martinique on March 10, 1973 at 15 meters.

(Ed. Note: We have been informed by the Delaware Museum that copies of this paper are available at $2.00 each. You may write the Delaware Museum at Box 3937, Greenville, Delaware, 19807.

DEEP-SUTURE



This deformed Helicostyla satyrus (Broderip, 1840), variety palawanensis (Pfeiffer, 1856), from Palawan Island, has an unusually deep suture, starting at the second whorl and causes the aperture to descend slightly in front. It measures 54mm. Helicostyla are tree snails confined to the Philippines. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

Better Ideas...Con't from Page 9

sort of the conservative type that would rather bring it and not need it, than not bring it and need it. The choice is yours

CLOTHING: The kind that can get wet, dirty and probably smelly; *Long pants; *Long sleeved shirt; *Broad brimmed hat; *Tennis shoes; *Heavy duty cotton gloves.

The Florida sun can be brutal. The above is proper garb for beach or shallow water collecting and snorkeling(leave off the hat when snorkeling). You may feel silly wearing this when snorkeling, but better silly than sunburned.

COLLECTING EQUIPMENT: *Mesh bags with drawstring tops(with a sewing machine, mosquito netting and heavy nylon string you can make a dozen in an hour); *Pooper-scooper(for those who wish to avoid the Sanibel stoop); *A Limpet popper(also useful as a chiton lifter -- any device with a thin flexible blade of stainless steel or spring brass. Steel rusts like crazy. A Pharmacist's or Painter's Spatula is perfect); *Waterproof paper and pen(cut paper into ½" X 3" strips for data); *Screw top plastic vials(great for small stuff); *Tongue depressors and rubber bands(for strapping down chitons if you are so inclined); *Kitchen strainer(for hand dredge or the like); *Flashlight with spare bulb and batteries(for night collecting. A heavy duty industrial type with a plastic lens is great. They are "fairly" waterproof.); *Plastic pail(camper's fold-up type); *Shovel(for the bivalve people and sand diggers); *Screen set(½", ¼", 1/8", 1/16" mesh sizes for straining grunge); *Watertight box with glass bottom(viewbox for non-snorkelers); *Waterproof wallet(to carry I.D., money, keys, etc. with you. I learned this one the hard way); *Rip stop nylon stuff bag(to carry all the above. See your camping supply store).

FOR CLEANING AND MISCELLANEOUS: Pocket knife; Assorted dental tools; 6" or 8" plastic tweezers; 6" bent nose tweezers; Old tooth brushes; Rubber gloves with rough finger tips; 6" lengths of stiff fine wire; Long sewing needles; 50' heavy string; Surgical forceps(hemostat); Pliers(small); Sun screen cream; Small artists paint brush; Toothpicks; 3' X 3' plastic sheets; Wire brush(small stainless steel); Notebook(small); Beat up spoon; Scissors; Ruler; Magnifying glass; Bug repellant; Spool of linen thread/fishline; Screwdriver(small); Copper wire(10'); Personal first aid kit; Small case for the above.

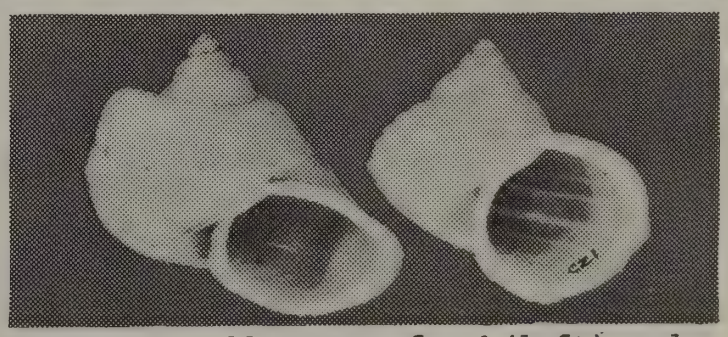
REFERENCE MATERIAL: Good detailed map of the area; I.D. Book(Abbott's SEASHELLS OF NORTH AMERICA-Golden Press, is a real good paperback covering the Keys); Sheller's Creed!

PACKING MATERIALS: Plastic bags(assorted sizes); Rubberbands; Twist-ties; Cotton; Plastic boxes and vials of assorted sizes; Transparent tape; Trash bags.

OTHER ODDS AND ENDS: Snorkel and mask; Flippers; Underwater flashlight; Preservatives(alcohol, formaldehyde, etc.); If you are a tree snail collector, consult the editor; Portable(travelers') water heater, with a #10 tin(can be used in a pinch to boil shells); Scuba gear if this is your thing(of course you can bring a small plastic card with your name and a few numbers and forget all of the above!). Really you will be surprised how little space this equipment takes.

You probably have some favorite piece of collecting equipment that you find indespensible and is not listed. Bring it to the Convention. Maybe we can get the program chairman to set aside 15-20 minutes for a seminar on collecting equipment. If your are not coming, drop me a line and tell me about it. I'll pass the word! Good Shelling.

LOP-SIDED LEPTOPOMA



The above shells are a freak(left) and normal Leptopoma helicoides(Grateloup, 1852) from the Philippines. The animal started its shell off normal, and became malformed during the growth of the last whorl. The shell is 33mm in diameter. L. helicoides is a terrestrial operculate in the family Cyclophoridae. It has been reported from Masbate, Siquijor and Samar, Philippines. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE TOURIST SPOTS

by Raymond Pease, Key West, FL.

Sand Key, a pile of sand about four miles off Key West, is visited by most everyone who has been out boating past it, at one time or another. It has beautiful clear water typical of the Florida Keys and there are many underwater splendors.

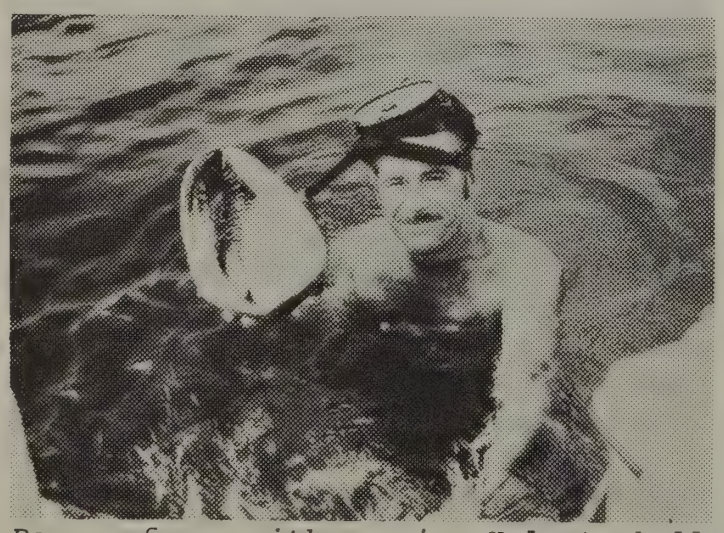
Dive boats run trips to Sand Key, and it's a nice area for family outings. It is not unusual to see 10 or 15 boats anchored around the island during any weekend. I saw this many times passing the Key from a distance during my two Navy tours of duty in the Key West area. Why had I never stopped? "There will be no shells there! Too many people go to Sand Key!"

My rational seemed valid to me -- but you know what happens when you assume. On May 5, 1979, we went to this island and anchored in about 15 feet. My wife Delores (who doesn't snorkel, but is a number one beachcomber), and two diving friends, Ralph and Harry were along for the trip.

The surrounding waters were very productive for shelling. Delores and Ralph were very successful on the beach also, finding some fair to good specimens of the Atlantic Yellow Cowrie(*Cypraea spurca acicularis* Gmelin, 1791) and Atlantic Gray Cowrie(*Cypraea cinerea* Gmelin, 1791).

Some of the other species of shells found that day included:

King Helmet-*Cassis tuberosa* (Linné, 1758)
Queen Conch-*Strombus gigas* Linné, 1758



Ray surfaces with a prize Helmet shell during a weekend collecting trip. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

Cypraea cinerea Gmelin, 1791(left) and Cypraea spurca acicularis Gmelin, 1791 (right) with mantle extended. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

Crown Cone-*Conus regius* Gmelin, 1791
Mouse Cone-*Conus mus* Hwass, 1792
Carrot Cone-*Conus daucus* Hwass, 1792
Angular Triton-*Cymatium femorale* (Linné, 1758)
Atlantic Partridge Tun-*Tonna maculosa* (Dillwyn, 1817)
Atlantic Morum-*Morum oniscus* (Linné, 1767)
Florida Horse Conch-*Pleuroploca gigantea* (Kiener, 1840)
Barbados Miter-*Mitra barbadensis* (Gmelin, 1791)
Caribbean Vase-*Vasum muricatum* (Born, 1778)
Shiny Atlantic Auger-*Terebra hastata* (Gmelin, 1791)
White-spotted Marginella-*Marginella guttata* (Dillwyn, 1817)
Dwarf Triton Trumpet-*Pisania pusio* (Linné, 1758)
Tinted Cantharus-*Pisania tincta* (Conrad, 1846)
Flamingo Tongue-*Cyphoma gibbosum* (Linné, 1758)
Fingerprint Cyphoma-*Cyphoma signatum* Pilsbry and McGinty, 1939
Sentis Scallop-*Chlamys sentis* (Reeve, 1853)
Inverted Sea Biscuits

So my point is proven -- don't ever overlook the obvious spots as I had done in the past. As someone once said, "Shells are where you find them and you will find them everywhere." Robert Wagner has reminded us of this fact many times at the Florida Keys Shell Club meetings! *(Raymond is President of the Florida Keys Shell Club for the 1979-1980 season.)*

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN

NUMBER 21

NEWS AND VIEWS OF A RECORD EIGHTH ANNUAL C.O.A. CONVENTION IN KEY WEST...

A record breaking convention would be an appropriate way to describe this year's Conchologist of America Convention, held in Key West on August 6-9. Over 180 collectors from around the country, and as far away as Panama were in attendence for the four day convention. This is the largest turnout for a C.O.A. convention in its eight year history [twice as many as the past record set last year in Santa Monica]. A combination of a well organized program, great convention site [the Casa Marina Hotel], and a fun group of C.O.A. members made this a truly successful event.

The convention committee, members of the Florida Keys Shell Club set up the registration table early Wednesday morning for the 10:00 A.M. "sign-in" time. As members checked in to the hotel from their long journeys [or short], they headed down to the convention room which was the center of activities for the entire convention. Many had been shelling through the Florida Keys prior to the convention and were able to settle in the night before. As everyone gathered, old acquaintances were renewed, new faces were introduced and it was not uncommon to hear someone say, "So you're....., I've heard so much about you!" or "I've read your articles in Of Sea & Shore."

After lunch, the opening announcements by Convention Committee chairman, Raymond Pease, and Welcome Speech by 1980 President Martin Lerner followed. Then the first drawing for the Shell Book door prizes began with the rules for the give-away outlined

(CON'T ON PAGE 4)

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC.

A Collective Devotion To Advancing- Conchology.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC. was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: R. Wayne Stevens; 1835 N.E. 16th Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97212
VICE-PRES.: Caroline Harnack, 32 Dondi Road, Key West, Florida, 33040
SECRETARY: Mary Snediker, 2562 Ramona Street, East Meadow, New York, 11554
TREASURER: Clair Stahl, 3235 N.E. 61st Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97213

BULLETIN STAFF

EDITOR: Richard Goldberg

ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER: Marc Goldberg

The BULLETIN is an official publication of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC., published quarterly in March, June, September and December. We invite you to submit any shell related items for inclusion in the BULLETIN. Address all BULLETIN correspondence to the EDITOR, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

*INDIVIDUAL(per year) $5.00; FAMILY(receives one Bulletin) $7.00; OVERSEAS(Air Mail Postage) $10.00; Send check or money order to the TREASURER(address above); ***Any other membership problems should be addressed to the MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON, Phyllis Pipher, 1116 'N' St., Tekamah, Nebraska, 68061.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to express my thanks to the committee for nominating, and to the club for electing what I consider to be a fine group of officers to assist me in the ensuing year.

Each officer has expressed his or her willingness to shoulder any assigned club responsibility and they can be assured that as soon as the format for the ensuing year is completed that assignments will be coming their way.

Since Key West, we have invoked several new phases of operations. This includes drafting and printing of new forms, stationary, cards, etc. which will, we believe, facilitate a better overall club operation and will both simplify and expedite many phases of the work load.

President Wayne Stevens(r.), confers with a member during a program break.

Letters soliciting reinstatement of membership have gone out to all parties that failed to renew in 1980. I feel confident that in many instances this failure was due to oversight rather than intent.

Convention invitations for 1981 have been received from the Northern California Malacozoological Club. Treasurer, Clair Stahl and I plan to drive to San Francisco to attend their club meeting on October 16, and to go over all convention details with them. We can then make a final determination as to whether San Francisco can handle the 1981 convention. It is hoped that a final determination can be reached so that a supplemental announcement of the decision will be made in time for inclusion in the forthcoming bulletin.

San Francisco is "never" an off-season convention center and housing will be our prime problem. Verbal invitations have been tendered to hold our 1982 convention in Bermuda and a letter has been received from Carlos Leobrera, Manager of Carfel's Shell Exports in the Philippines offering us the use of their facilities in 1983.

I am looking foward to this year of endeavor. It is my hope that by next convention we will have not less than 1000 members in good standing, and that we will if the membership at large assists in urging shell enthusiasts to join our group and participat in our activities.

Good Shelling,

R. Wayne Stevens

We're sorry this issue is a bit over due, but we were waiting for the new Bulletin typewriter to arrive. Now we're right on schedule again. Issue #22, December 1980 should be arriving in January.

CONVENTION SHELLING AND OTHER THOUGHTS...

by Corinne Edwards, Coconut Grove. Fl.

Corinne was the lucky winner of Abbott's American Seashells at the convention banquet. Her only complaint was she could not get near him to get this big, blue-covered sheller's bible autographed. The numbers after the common names are from the book, in hopes they will aid readers interested in looking up some of the shells found while at the Eighth Annual C.O.A. Convention at Key West.

Maybe it was Hurricane Allen that riled up the ocean and piled Turtle Grass on Sand Key. So the boat trip out there to collect *Conus regius*, Crown Cone #2788, *Pisania pusio*, Miniature Triton Trumpet #2409, *Astraea caelata*, Carved Star Shell #483, Coral Shells, Keyhole Limpets, Chitons and more had to be cancelled. Margaret Teskey came to the rescue with a blackboard map, and sent car loads of suited-up collectors to Geiger Key along Old Boca Chica Road to try their luck. The slab rock shore was exposed. In pockets and tidepools were *Nerita peloronta*, Bleeding Teeth #519, *N. versicolor*, Four-Toothed Nerite #520, *N. tessellata*, Baby-Toothed Nerite #521, and even *Neritina virginea*, Virgin Nerite #527 that prefers brackish water. I saw one *Arca zebra*, Turkey Wing Ark #4961. It was alive but so eroded that it had lost all its periostracum and color. There were live *Arca cancellaria*, Red-Brown Ark #4966, and *Brachidonta modiolus*, Yellow Mussel #5043. Also alive at the edge of these rocks were small Rock Shells, *Thais deltoidea* #1897 and *T. rustica*, #1896. A few Crown Conchs, *Melongena corona* #2432 were taken but not *Melongena corona bicolor*, the light-colored Dwarf Melongena of the Keys' mud flats, #2433.

Batillaria minima, the 1/2 inch False Cerith #990, was there for the scooping-up. They were near black and are nice for shellcraft. Under some rocks Hermit Crabs had congregated -- why do they do this and how do they find each other? We grab hands full of crab-inhabited small shells to see what other species could be found, that is, if they did not scurry away -- there were *Batillaria*, *Cerithium muscarum*, Fly-Specked Cerith #993, *C. litteratum*, Stocky Cerith #994, *Turbo castanea*, Chestnut Turban #474, *Modulus modulus*, Atlantic Modulus #976, and *Littorina angulifera*, Angulate Periwinkle #5683. We usually find these Angulate Periwinkles alive in the Red Mangove trees that overhang the water.

Good "rock turning" low tides coincided with the field trip along Old Boca Chica Road.

Wading out to a shallow-water reef where a grass and rubble area was, were a dense growth of *Pseudopterogorgia acerosa*, Purple Sea Plume and *P. americana*, Slimy Sea Plume. Both were purple in color. One had to snorkel in shallow water since the visibility was not good due to windy weather and turbulent seas. Out there we found *Vasum muricatum*, Caribbean Vase Shell #2646, by the dozens. Some books say if you find one of these stout little mollusks you should find its mate nearby. I kept my toe where I picked up one and searched in a great circle -- only twice did I find the mate. The strong seas may have stirred up worms and bivalves for them to feed on.

I kept only two *Strombus raninus*, Hawk-wing Conch #1585. Many were seen, silt-covered, but their shape revealed them to us. *Raninus* means frog and like other algae-feeding *Strombus*, it sort of leaps along the bottom. Strombs have colorful eyes on stalks with a tiny tentacle like an eye lash. The right eye peers from the stromboid notch. Strombs usually see the shell collector first and freeze in place, so we don't often get to enjoy watching them dig in with their elongate operculum as they lurch along. There were some very ancient Hawk Wing Conchs out there -- the thickened outer lip and the parietal wall were darkened or silvered.

There were several fresh-dead bivalve pairs found besides *Codakia orbicularis*, Tiger Lucine #5297. I always pop dead bivalve pairs into my shelling apron [a net one when I snorkel] including *Tellina fausta*, Faust Tellin #5643, *T. radiata*, Sunrise Tellin #5636, *Periglypta listeria*, Princess Venus #5852, and formerly was in the genus *Antigona*. It looks something like a Quahog

(CON'T ON PAGE 8)

NEWS AND VIEWS...Con't. from Page 1

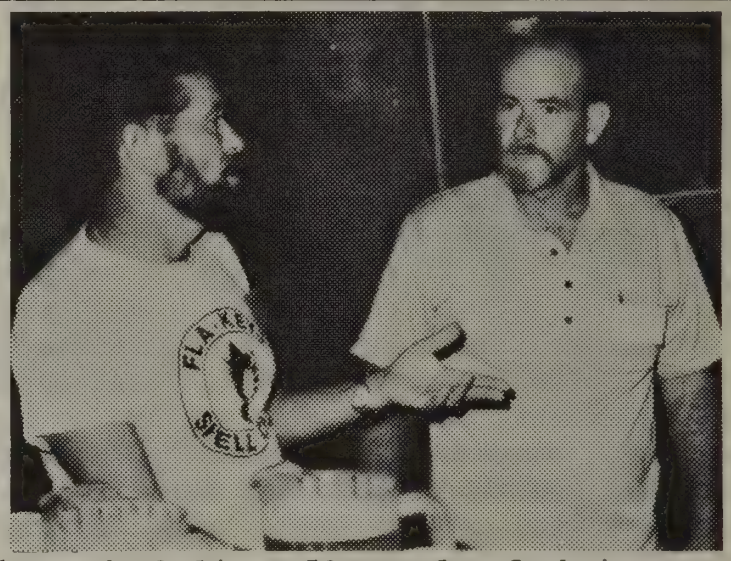
by Wayne Stevens, Education Chairman. As in past conventions, you had to wear your registration badge, and had to be present to win. If you missed your number, it was put aside for a later drawing at the Banquet [as were all the tickets]. The books were displayed in the convention room throughout the four days so that they could be browsed at leisure.

The first of the slide presentations was then introduced by Master of Ceremonies, Richard Goldberg. Kirk Anders gave a travelog talk on "Shelling in Bonaire." Kirk showed the island's many collecting sites, and even tried to show a slide of the pink flamingo's that inhabit the island. Sure enough, off in the distance were a flock of flamingos, or at least we took Kirk's word for it! This would be rectified in a later talk where beautiful shots were shown with close-up's in living color.

The second talk took everyone to the Pacific with "Hawaiian *Achatinella* Tree Snails of Oahu," by Richard Goldberg. This presentation centered on the conchological aspects of the genus. It was stressed that no collecting of these shells are done today, since they are on the precarious edge of extinction. A discussion of the shell's characteristics and a look at a few of the species were included. This was followed by a short intermission and another shell book door prize drawing.

The late afternoon talks included "Galapagos Islands Travel," by Bill Bledsoe who illustrated the many beautiful animals inhabiting the islands, "Mt. St. Helens, Past and Present," by Clair Stahl, with shots of the volcano before and after the eruption, with some geological background, and to finish off the afternoon's events, "A Collecting Equipment Show and Tell," moderated by Dick Jones. Various members showed how they fashion dredges, collecting jars, etc. to help them in their shelling endevours.

In the evening was the "Get Acquainted Shrimp and Beer Party," hosted by the Florida Keys Shell Club, and held in one of their courtyards in downtown Key West. The flavor of Old Key West was everywhere! All 180 plus members were shuttled to the party from the hotel in a rented van and by other means. It was a group effort to say the least. Late-comers got right into the swing of things, and everyone mingled in a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere. A comment was overheard to the effect that, "I can't believe 50 pounds of shrimp went in half an hour!" Then, just steps from some of the finest Cuban and other restaurants, everyone dispersed into town for a leisurely dinner.



"I can't believe 50 pounds of shrimp went in half an hour!" exclaims Ray Pease to Tom Sheppard, both of Key West, at the Shrimp & Beer Get Acquainted Party.

Thursday morning's program started bright and early with another door prize drawing. The first speaker of the day was Cheryl Richardson who gave a talk on "Underwater Guam," illustrating some outstanding shots of live mollusks on the reefs and in aquariums. Cheryl commented on the shells, their habitat and collecting in the various habitats.

Kirk Anders gave a second talk on "Shell Color Patterns," and discussed, very esthetically, the make up of common and rare shells. Colors and patterns were shown in diversity, even among one species. This was followed by "Shelling from a Diver's View," by Martin Lerner. Marty has travelled throughout the Caribbean to various diver resorts with his Nikonos camera, and gave a "fisheye lens" view of what can be seen. Corals, marine organisms, fish, and mollusks were illustrated from Bonaire to the Virgin Islands.

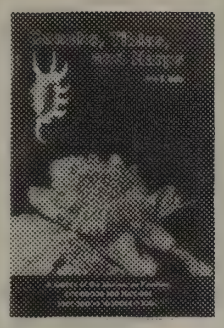
After lunch, more door prizes were drawn, and then Gerrie Walklet gave a travelog entitled "Shelling on Australia's Great Barrier Reef." She depicted an earlier shelling tour through Queensland, and the sights they encountered, people they met and shells they collected. Gerrie conveyed many funny anecdotes about the trip.

"A Look At Some *Mitra*" was presented

(CON'T ON PAGE 11)

SHELLS IN PRINT

By Richard Goldberg

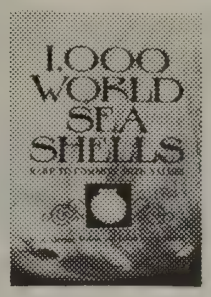


Another in the growing series of T.F.H. shell books has recently been published by Jerry Walls, entitled CONCHS, TIBIAS, AND HARPS. This very useful volume covers all the known species listed in its title, with color plates illustrating each with two views. In an effort to keep the descriptions in close proximity to the pictures, they either precede or follow them by one page -- a time saving convenience when trying to identify a shell.

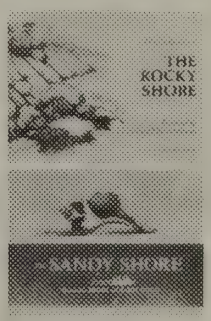
An introduction to the Strombs opens the book with background information and distribution maps for all species. Pictures of live mollusks are included. The introduction to the Harps follow the plates in the back of the book, also with distribution maps. The book is rounded out with two short chapters on collecting and keeping live Strombs and Harps, a Bibliography, a Check/Price List of species giving current values, an illustration and map index, and finally a Synonymic Index.

For those of you who do not have the out-of-print Indo-Pacific Mollusca issue on the Strombs, this book will fill your every need. If you do, you'll find it a quick reference and quite informative. This 191 page volume has alot going for it, including its relatively low price of $9.95 [a bargain in these days of high book prices!].

A FIELD GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN SHELLS-PROSOBRANCH GASTROPODS by Wilson and Gillett is a new book distributed in this country by Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc. In essence this guide is a compact version of Wilson and Gillett's earlier tome, "Australian Shells" [1971]. The difference is the addition of several plates depicting some of the small species not covered in the larger volume. Some of these include Limpets, Nerites, Periwinkles, *Cancellaridae*, Marginella and others. The quality and information are equal to the previous book -- the size is just right to take along with you on your "dream" shelling trip to Australia. This hardcover volume is 287 pages with the finest quality color plates available today. The price is $25.75. Some might shy-away from the moderately expensive price, but for those who do not have the first volume, or expect to go to Australia shelling, this one is highly recommended. It sure fits the bill.



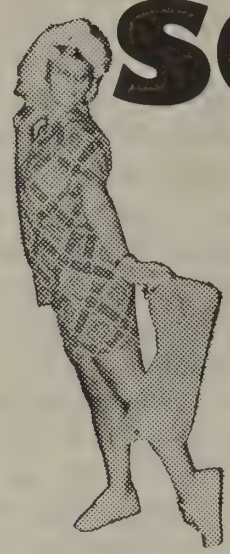
A 1980 addition to the Tuttle line of books is "1000 WORLD SEA SHELLS-RARE TO COMMON, WITH VALUES" by A. Gordon Melvin and Lorna Strong Melvin. This is a companion volume to Melvin's earlier book called "Sea Shells of the World, With Values." It includes approximately [as the title says], 1000 new species not illustrated in the first book. The style is similar, but this new volume has the plates behind the descriptions, instead of interspersed among the plates. There are 16 color and 36 black and white plates. One fault we found while going through the book was on plate 12, of small Cones. The image was reversed so that all the shells are sinistral. This also reverses the specimen numbers [number 1 on the left is actually number 6 on the right, and so on]. I'm sure this will be corrected in future editions, and does not deter from this one, as long as you are aware of the flip-flop. The species are not layed out in any systematic order, so for identification, you would atleast have to know the genera you were looking for and check the index. The selection of species is diverse although the popular families dominate. I found it fun while browsing the book, to try and test myself on identification skills Then I would turn to the descriptions and see how I did. The book lists at $18.50, and is a nice companion volume to Melvin's first title. If Melvin keeps this series going, he'll need just another 48-50 volumes to illustrate all the marine shells!

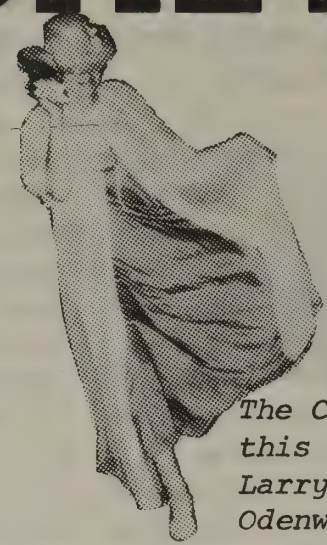


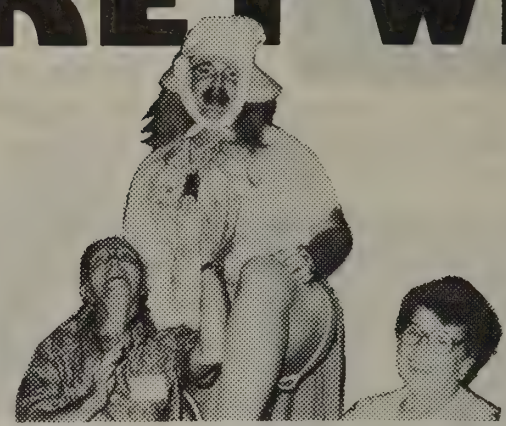
A two book series published by Chatham Press, Inc. are entitled THE SANDY SHORE by John Hay, and THE ROCKY SHORE by John M. Kingsbury. Both hardcover books are illustrated in excellent color and black & white drawings by Edward and Marcia Norman. Although published in 1968 and 1970 respectively, their style and format might be of interest to those who have an interest in habitats, and what can be found in these areas. THE SANDY SHORE centers around spe-

(CON'T ON PAGE 13)

SOME KEY WEST...







The Convention photographs throughout this issue are by Richard Goldberg, Larry Martin, Lynn Nathanson, and Jack Odenwald.

The Banquet entertainment included the Fashion Show of Collecting Styles; (l. to r) The Night-time Collector(Gerrie Walklet); The Fashionable Collector(Cecilia Abbott); The Queen Conch(Greg Curry); Dr. Pemuch(Tucker Abbott); The Ready-for-Anything Fossiler (Mary Palmer); The Collector Who Picks Up Everything(Ann Young); The Diving Collector (Len Hill); The Announcer(Phyllis Pipher); The Tour Guide(Kirk Anders); and the Tour Guide's Helper(Greg Curry, Jr.). To the left; The Announcer(Marc Goldberg) and Carnac the Magnificent(Richard Goldberg) during their skit.

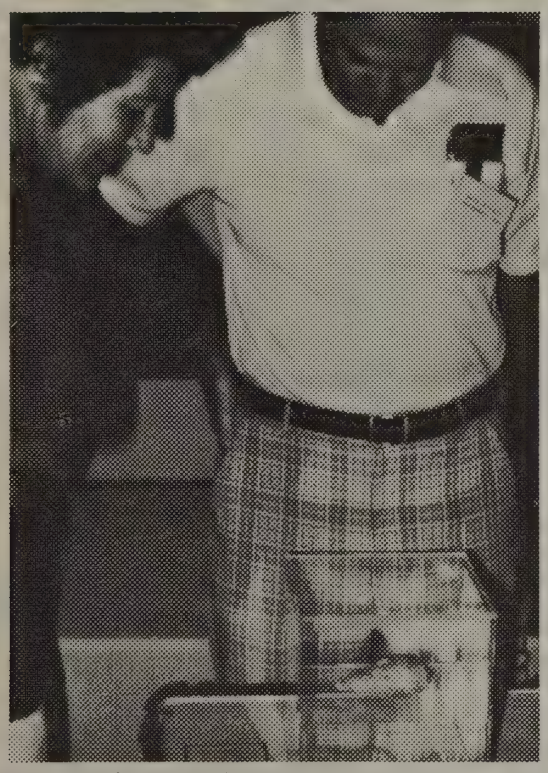
The convention speakers included (front row-L. to R.) Richard Goldberg-Achatinellas; Gary Magnote-Roatan; Kirk Anders-Bonaire/Patterns/Barrier Reef; Gerrie Walklet-Great Barrier Reef; Carl Smith-Sambo's; Tucker Abbott-Symposium; Marty Lerner-Underwater; Clair Stahl-Mt. St. Helens. (Behind-L. to R.) Len Hill-Miters; Dick Jones-Equipment; Greg Curry-Cowries; and Bill Bledsoe-Galapagos. Missing from the photo is Cheryl Richardson-Guam.

The convention committee from L. to R.: Raymond Pease, Margaret Teskey, Greg Curry Sr., Ann Young, and Kirk Anders.

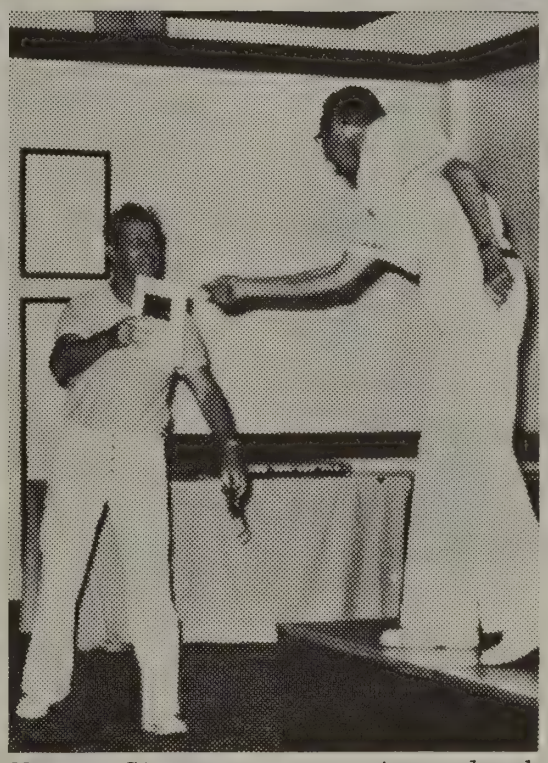
Dick Jones moderates a shelling equipment "Show & Tell" seminar including hand dredging techniques.

CONVENTION VIEWS...

The convention photographs in this issue give you just a glimpse of the many fun and memorable events experienced.



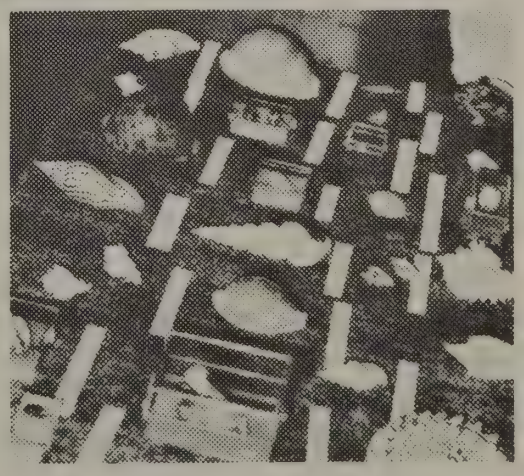
The Shiflett's of Alabama ponder a beautiful Conus cervus displayed by Bernie & Phyllis Pipher during the convention.



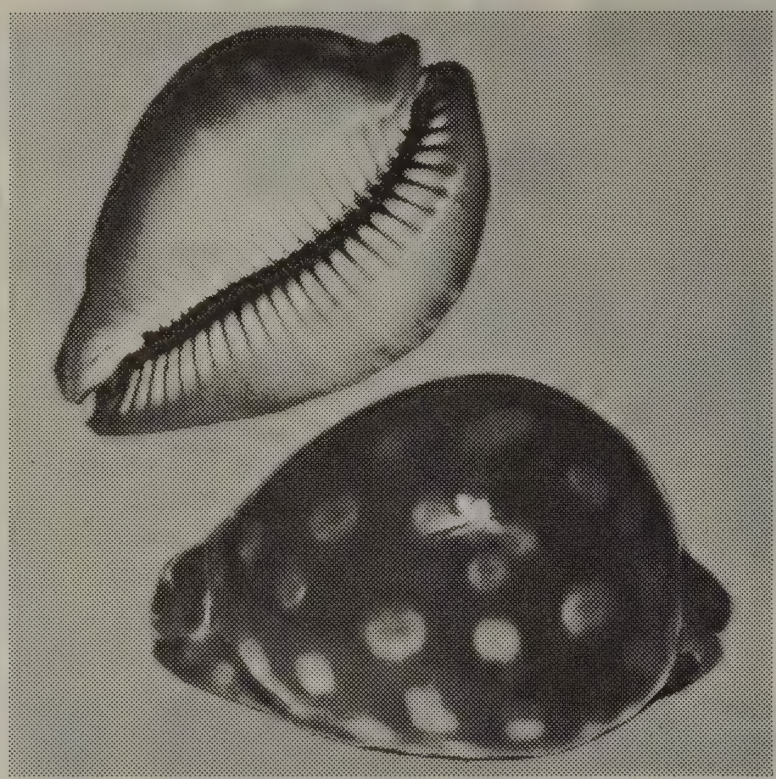
Wayne Stevens presents a book to Larry Martin of New York, won at a door prize drawing.

Over 20 dealers set up sales tables during the two "Dealer's Bourse" for members to browse and shop for their favorite species.

(left)C.O.A. members line up to register & recieve information on the first morning. (right)Bill Bledsoe displayed rare shells including Cypraea broderipii, C. valentia, Murex phyllopterus, Voluta perplicata, Conus milneedwardsi[very large] Epitonium rugosum, and many others -- each an exceptional specimen!



"BIG LEUC"



The pictured specimen of Cypraea leucodon Broderip, 1828, is possibly the largest taken to date. It measures 98mm, just 2mm off the 4 inch mark. It was taken in bottom nets in Cebu, Philippines in July 1980. The sparse, ocellated spots make this a most attractive specimen. Photo: Escoto.

AUCTION

This year's annual Auction of Donated Shells brought in over $2200, the most ever taken at this C.O.A. event. The C.O.A. is most grateful to the following dealers and members for their generous donations of shells and related items, which assured the success of the auction.

American Malacologists Inc.; Amora Shells (Australia); Bauer's Gems and Seashells; Burry's Shell Museum; Lee & Den Caltagirone; Carfel Shell Export(Philippines); Derry's Shell Shelter; James Ernest(Panama); Rich Goldberg's Worldwide Specimen Shells; Ed Hanley's Coral & Shells; Peter Hillenbrand Jr.; Tom Honker Specimen Shells; Richard Kurz Specimen Shells; Leo Shell Export (Ceylon); Roberta Maupin; Arthur Merrill; Robert Miller; The Morrison Galleries; Raymond & Delores Pease; Ernie Ryckman; Gloria Scarboro; H.W. Schindler; Richard Sedlak; Shajani Fashion Images; Key West Shell Warehouse; Showcase Shells.

CONVENTION SHELLING...Con't. from Page 3

or *Mercenaria*, #5861 or #5864.

I took two large but immature and dead *Strombus gigas*, Pink Conch #1583. It seemed strange that these Pink Rollers did not have Hermit Crabs in them, nor did a dead *Fasciolaria tulipa*, True Tulip #2503, or one lone *Murex pomum*, Apple Murex #1828. This Apple Murex and a zip-lock bag of likely looking drift line debris went to Virginia Lee who like Murex and to pick through such material, seeing how many different species she can find.

Just visible from under the edges of rock pockets were the short, stout black spines of *Echinometra lucunter*, Rock-Boring Sea Urchin [not *Diadema* with the very long thin spines that we warn shellers about]. The Rock-Borers brace themselves when touched so one can not just pick them up. At night they come out and move around. That is when craft people collect them, rot them out, bleach them and make all sorts of lovely things from the strong, oval test or shell.

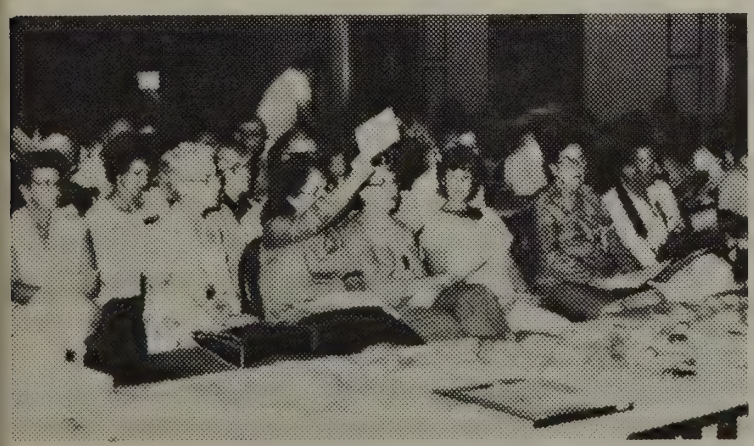
C.O.A. conferees shelled here and there in other locations. A few *Lima scabra*, Rough Lima #5242, were flitting about in a dish of salt water in the convention room. I brought part of a display of *Cyrtopleura costata*, Angel Wing #6034, that lives in such sloppy mud. I should have given a 10 minute talk about them, but did get to talk to a number of conchologists who were interested. Bill Bledsoe brought some of his fabulous shells for display. Archie Jones not only furnished a *Liguus fasciatus*, the Florida Tree Snail with data for each one at the banquet, but also had four bright and colorful cases of them on display with all their variations and names to tantalize us. There was a big, pink, lusciously beautiful *Strombus gigas*, the Queen Conch, filled with Hibiscus blossoms at each table of ten. After the banquet and part of the entertaining entertainment, the person in the "Lucky" seat at each table got to keep the Queen Conch. The one at my table went to Texas. A 2½ X 3½ inch plastic box was at each banquet place, compliments of the Florida Keys Shell Club. In those boxes were miniature shells of the lower Keys. They looked to me like Margaret Teskey's famous miniature collecting. There was *Hyalina avena*, *Marginella*, *Prunum*, *Pecten* pairs, *Astraea*, Limpets, *Conus*, *Natica*, *Turbo*, *Cerion*, Prickly Winkles, *Melampus*, Dove Shells, *Puperita*

(CON'T ON PAGE 13)

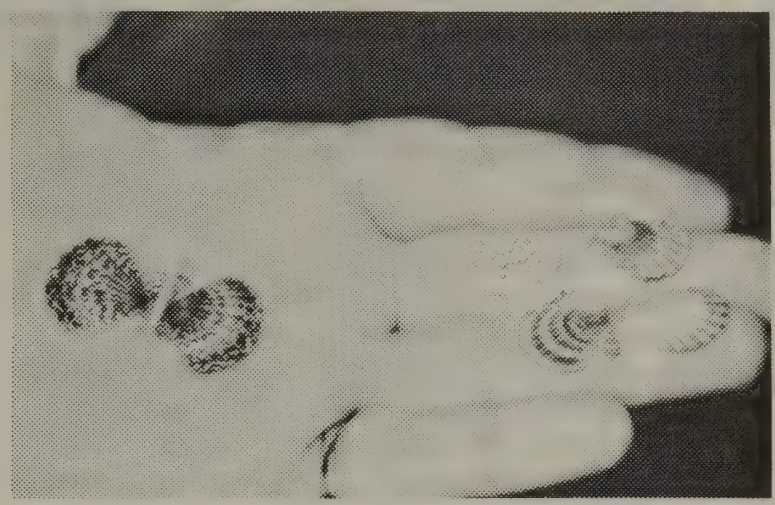
BOOK GIVE-AWAY

Every year at the Annual C.O.A. Convention, book publishers donate various books on shelling topics for door prize drawings, which take place during program breaks. The books are on display throughout the convention for members to browse. These publishers have donated books to the Key West convention:

Abington Press, 201 Eighth Ave. S., Nashville, TN, 37202; American Malacologists Inc., P.O. Box 2255, Melbourne, FL, 32901; American Philosophical Society, 104 S. Fifith St., Philadelphia, PA, 19106; Harcourt Brace Jonanacich Inc., 757 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10017; Houghton Mifflin Co., Wayside Rd., Burlington, MA, 01803; Chatham Press Inc., 143 Sound Beach, Old Greenwich, CT, 06870; Dover Publications, 180 Varik St., New York, N.Y., 10014; Chilton Book Co., 201 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor, PA, 19089; Kraus Reprint Co., 100, Millwood, N.Y., 10546; McGraw Hill Book Co., 1221 Ave. of The Americas, New York, N.Y., 10020; Taplinger Publishing Co. Inc., 200 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y., 10003; Naturegraph Publishers, P.O. Box 1075, Happy Camp, CA, 92038; Of Sea and Shore, P.O. Box 33, Port Gamble, WA, 98364; Pacific Search Press, 222 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle, WA, 98109; Paleontological Research Institution, 1259 Trumansberry Road, Ithica, N.Y., 14850; Charles A. Tuttle Co., Inc., Rutland, VT, 05701; University of Hawaii, 2840 Kalowalu St., Honolulu, HI, 96822; Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters; University of Miami-Rosentiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL, 33149; Viking Press, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022; Van Nostrand Reinhold, 450 West 33rd St., New York, N.Y., 10001; University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA, 98105.

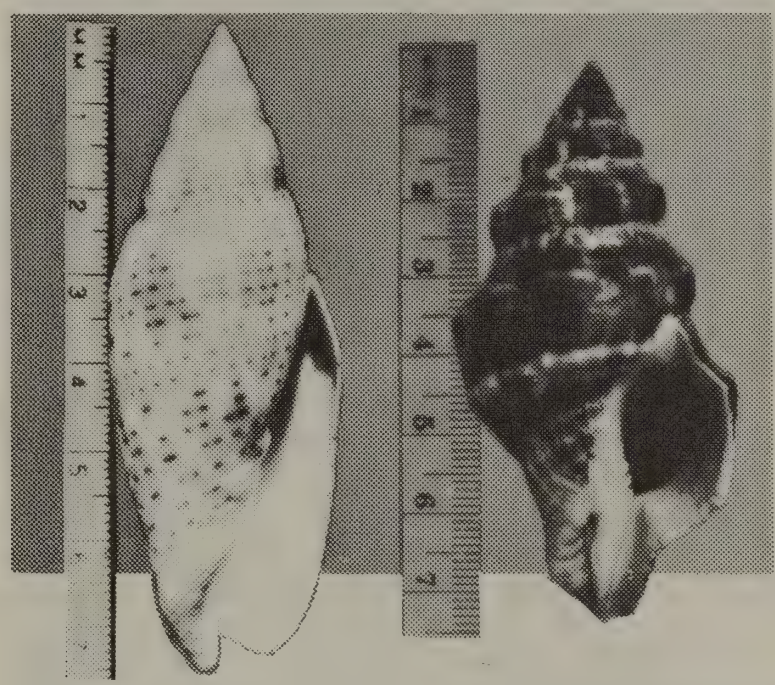


Spirited bidding dominated the auction throughout the evening.



Some outstandingly patterned Pecten antillarum were shown during one of the program breaks.

2-Records For The Keys



The two pictured shells have been registered with Bob Wagner, keeper of the World-size record shells, as the largest known of the species to date. On the left is Mitra florida Gould, 1856, an enormous specimen at 74mm in length. It was collected in January 1980 in the Dry Tortugas, Florida Keys, at 100 feet from a lobster trap. It is in the collection of Jim and Chris Westbrook of Marathon, Florida. On the right is Leucozonia nassa (Gmelin, 1791), measuring 70.5mm in length. It was collected in June 1979 at Looe Key, Florida Keys, on the Atlantic side, at 20 feet deep in a coral cave. It resides in the collection of Mary and Frank Robb of Puerto Rico (ex-of Key West). Photos by Richard Goldberg.

If you missed, SPEAKING OF SHELLS, GRAND TROPHY, BETTER IDEAS FOR SHELL COLLECTORS, and FEEDBACK, they will return in the next issue of THE BULLETIN

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1980 BUSINESS MEETING

[Key West]On Saturday, August 9, 1980 the annual business meeting of the Conchologists of America was called to order by President Martin Lerner at 2:30 P.M. Congratulations were given to the chairman and committee, members of the Florida Keys Shell Club, for a convention well done. Next followed the treasurer's report with the audit committee motioning for acceptance of the report compiled by Clair Stahl. The motion was approved. The auditing committee submitted a written approval. The 1979 minutes were then read by Secretary Sally Jo Gray and accepted as read.

R. Tucker Abbott speaking for the Awards Committee advised that the C.O.A. Award now goes to 20 shell clubs at their shell shows and urged the shell dealers to offer credit for those winning an award. At this time $20-$25 in shell value is given rather than a credit. A suggestion to improve the look of the C.O.A. plaque logo engraving was made. Gerri Walklet is chairperson for the program.

The tax exempt status is still pending and should be obtained within the next several months.

The 1981 convention site was then discussed. Martin Lerner had written the Indianapolis Shell Club inviting them to attend the 1980 convention for ideas on how the conventions are run. No one from Indianapolis was represented however. Also, a bid made from the San Francisco area by the California Malacozoological Society had been discussed in 1979, but no one from that area attended either(although a few have attended C.O.A. conventions in the past).

Richard and Marc Goldberg were congratulated for the hard work they have put into improving the new C.O.A. Bulletin. The dues structure was then discussed as per the 1979 ammendment. A motion to continue the current structure was carried.

Under new business, Wayne Stevens mentioned that he will no longer be able to provide C.O.A. with address labels from his addressograph machine due to a closing of his warehouse where it is housed. He will need a new place in which to keep the equipment. It was suggested to send all materials to New York to be in close proximity to where the Bulletin is published. A motion was made to purchase an addressograph from Wayne Stevens for $1000 plus freight, or if a better deal is located, follow that route. The transfer is to take place around March 1981. The motion was carried.

Richard Goldberg requested that the Bulletin purchase a typewriter to alleviate the high rental costs incurred since he has been doing the Bulletin. An IBM Correcting Selectric was requested. A motion was made and carried to authorize Richard Goldberg to purchase a selectric typewriter, either new or used.

Phyllis Pipher suggested to provide a "Shell Club Directory" that would be a published pamphlet with worldwide shell clubs. This would include club activities and mailing addresses. Also an annual update was discussed along with assurances that this would not be a duplication of any other pamphlet. A motion for the project with an ammendment to incorporate this in the C.O.A. Bulletin was carried.

A suggestion was made to separate the Vice Presidency from the Membership Chairperson. Article V-Section I would have added membership chairperson. Article IV-Section II would have the membership chairperson removed from the duties of the Vice President. A motion was made and carried.

"Thank You's" were again given to the Florida Keys Shell Club and its members. Special thanks were extended to Dick Jones and the Curry family for help with the auction, and to the participants in the entire program.

A report from the nominating committee was then given by Gerri Walklet. The committee consisting of Gerri, Kirk Anders, and Margaret Teskey nominated Clair Stahl-Oregon/Treasurer; Mary Snediker-New York/Secretary; Caroline Harnack-Key West/Vice President; Wayne Stevens-Oregon/President. The motion carried to accept the proposed slate for the following year.

A discussion followed regarding shells donated to the annual auction. Phyllis Pipher requested minimum bids be made for rare shells. It was stated that no monies should go back to the donating party and a move to support the current by-laws and present C.O.A. policy was made and carried.

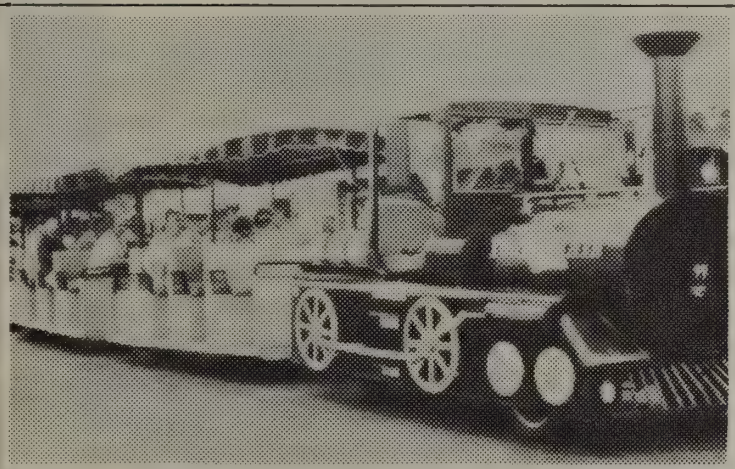
President Martin Lerner adjourned the 1980 annual business meeting.

[Minutes compiled by Sally Jo Gray, to be accepted at the 1981 Annual Business Meeting]

NEWS AND VIEWS...Con't. from Page 4

by Miter expert, Len Hill, who showed miters specifically of Hawaii. All known species were illustrated in the aquarium or prepared for the collection. Many newly dredged, deep water species were included, some named after members of the Hawaiian Malacological Society who were Len's collecting buddies during his tour of duty there. One was even named after Len. This talk enlightened many to the beauty of this diverse group.

The late afternoon was devoted to a tour on the "Conch Train," a motor tour of the sights of Key West. Members were given an overview of the island with historical narration. This was a good start for those who planned to explore Key West's historic Old Town and the shops and boutiques of Duval Street after the convention. Many who were frequent visitors to Key West had a chance to do some shelling at nearby collecting spots or just relax from the day's events at pool side.



The Key West Conch Train took members on a sight-seeing tour of the island.

After dinner, the first of the "Dealer's Bourse" took place. These have become a regular event at C.O.A. conventions. The word "Bourse" means "an exchange for the transaction of business," and over 20 dealers of specimens shells, shells craft, and shell related items participated. The dealers included, *Bauer's Gems, Sea Shells & Museum*[Texas], *Burry's Shell Museum-Gary & Rudi Magnotte*[Florida], *Skip & Linda Button, Gift & Jewelry Designs*[Florida], *Lee Caltagirone, Shell Paintings*[Florida], *Crown Specimen Shells*[Florida], *Conchas y Mar, Plastic Products for Collectors*[Florida], *Easland's Shell Cabinets*[Florida], *Richard Goldberg's Worldwide Specimen Shells*[New York], *Ed Hanley's Coral & Shells*[Florida], *Thomas Honker Specimen Shells*[Florida], *House of Shells, Westbrook's Marine Seastores*[Florida], *Ernie Ryckman Sea Shells*[Florida], *Shajani Fashion Images-Sharon & Janet Tabler* [Florida], *The Shell Lady*[Texas], *Shells of the Sea-Kirk Anders*[Florida], *The Shell Store-Bob & Betty Lipe*[Florida], *Showcase Shells-Al & Bev Deynzer*[Florida], *The Spell of the Shell-Ruth Reetz*[Minnesota], *Dr. Bernard M. Stanfield*[Georgia], *The Shell Warehouse*[Florida], *Sol Weiss*[New York], and *Tom White*[Florida]. The Dealer's Bourse lasted well into the evening with members picking up bargins and meeting dealers they have written to in the past.

Friday morning brought some winds, rain, and high seas from the outer reaches of Hurricane Allen. The question of the morning was, "Will the boat go out to Sand Key for the afternoon's field trip?" The convention committee stayed in close contact with the local dive shop that was to take snorkeling and diving members for some Florida Keys-style collecting. Once again a door prize was drawn for a lucky, early rising member. Then Raymond Pease gave a brief outline of what to expect at Sand Key -- that is, if we would go. Since the dive shop still gave no word as to whether the boat would go out, alternate plans were put together for a shoreline collecting trip. This was planned for the oceanside of Boca Chica.

Finally, the dive shop cancelled the trip, since the rough seas were more than even the most experienced diver could take. At 11:00, Tucker Abbott moderated an impromptu "Shell I.D. Symposium" which proved most popular. Tucker discussed many things including the history's of A.M.U. and C.O.A., and the need for two strong organizations with overlapping interests. He stressed, "It's the amateur helping the professional." He went on to look at the biological concept and the How, What, and Why of shell indentification -- large, well identified collections and shell books were given as examples of using resources to put a name on a shell. Many questions were fielded by Tucker after his talk.

After the lunch break, another talk on the Great Barrier Reef was given by Kirk Anders showing many other aspects of the reef and the Queensland coast. The group was even treated to slides of flamingos, close-ups-and-all! This time the photo's were by his partner, Pete Bright. Kirk was finally rectified, which brought a hardy round of applause from the audience! Then, after Kirk's slide presentation, everyone

(CON'T ON PAGE 12)

NEWS AND VIEWS...Con't. from Page 11

gathered their collecting equipment, buckets, bags and strainers, and headed in a caravan of cars to Boca Chica. [See Corrine Edward's article on the field trip in this issue.]

The evening was set aside for the annual auction, which drew a packed crowd. The donated shells were on display in front of the convention room before the first bid was started, for members to view. The highest bid shell of the evening was a large *Cypraea annettae aequinoctialis* (Schilder, 1933). Over 216 lots of specimen shells and other shell related items were auctioned off through the evening by auctioneer Dick Jones. After the last of the shells were gone, the take was added up and another record was set -- $2227.00 was taken in, more than any C.O.A. auction in the past. This will help in the many activities that the C.O.A. sponsors, including the C.O.A. Awards program and also the Bulletin.

More books were given away on Saturday morning to a tired but exhilarated group from the late evening's activities the night before. Richard Goldberg announced that it was Bob Wagner's [from the Standard Catalog fame] birthday, and the members sang "Happy Birthday" to him in nothing less than acappella-style!

The first slide presentation of the morning was by Carl Smith entitled "Collecting at the Sambo's," which gave a look at the underwater sights on the three adjoining reefs lying off the ocean side of Boca Chica Key in the lower Florida Keys. Carl showed the various underwater habitats to be encountered when diving on the reef, featuring a bikini-clad friend. Corals, mollusks and other marine organisms were shown in situ.

The next talk by Greg Curry centered on the problems of *Cypraea cervus/zebra* hybrids. Greg spread out a number of specimens showing distinct characteristics of one or the other, but some had characteristics of both. He discussed their habitat in the Florida Keys and answered some problematical questions from the audience. Mantles of the various specimens were described and then Greg left us with some questions he wanted everyone to ponder in the future. The specimens were left on display for members to view during the following program break.

The final slide presentation of the convention was "Roatan, a Central American Sheller's Island" by Gary Magnotte. With a hilarious commentary, Gary took us on a shelling trip in which they [Mike Cahill and himself] encountered bugs, language barriers, and a revolution including machine gun fire! Also shown was shell collecting in some virgin territories.

At noon, everyone gathered on the large lawn-area behind the hotel for the group photo. Then after a brief lunch, the annual business meeting was held [see highlights in this issue]. The second "Dealer's Bourse" followed until 6:30 when the pre-banquet cocktail party was held on the veranda outside the banquet room. After dinner was served, the entertainment portion of the banquet began. The first was a very special visitor from the east. "...famous sage, soothsayer and operculum sorter, Carnac the Magnificent," who in his borderline divine way ascertained the questions to such answers as, "R. Wayne Stevens, R. Tucker Abbott, and Kaopectate" -- with the response, "Name two publishers and a binder." Richard Goldberg was Carnac and his brother Marc was the announcer.

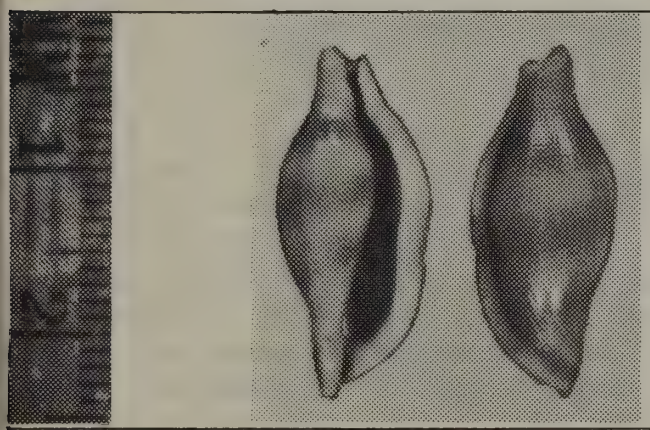
Another regular feature at the banquet is the "Fashion Show of Shelling Styles," put together by Kirk Anders. The announcer, Phyllis Pipher, introduced the various styles "The Ready-for-Anything Shell Fossiler"[Mary Palmer]; "The Typical Night Sheller"[Gerrie Walklet]; "The Fashionable Sheller"[Cecilia Abbott]; "The Well Equiped Tour Guide with his Assistant"[Kirk Anders and Greg Curry, Jr.]; "The Diving Collector"[Len Hill]; "Professor PeMuch, A Scholar of Conchs" [Tucker Abbott]; "The Queen Conch"[Greg Curry]; and "The Collector Who Picks Up Everything -- with a Vacuum Cleaner"[Ann Young]. Raucous laughter sustained throughout the show.

The banquet guest speaker was Dr. Abbott, who's slide presentation was entitled "A Survey of the Shell Trade in Florida." This most interesting talk centered on where shells were coming from for future sale in the state, and other related facts made during a survey. Many facts were really eye-openers and enlightened most to the real state of the shell trade in Florida. Tucker concluded his talk with shell slides that are to be part of a forthcoming book, co-authored with Peter Dance. It is to include over 5000 species of shells, many not illustrated in any other popular work. We will sure look foward to this one.

This concluded another great convention with another year until the next gathering.. hope to see you there!

NEW W. PANAMA OVULID

The "Odd Ovulid" illustrated in the last issue of the Bulletin [#20, June 1980] has been recently named in THE PARIAH as *Phenacovolva (Subsimnia) lenoreae* Cardin and Walls, 1980. The description appeared in issue #8 of THE PARIAH, published on September 30, 1980. *P. lenoreae* is most closely related to *P. (Subsimnia) bellamaris* (S.S. Berry, 1946) from southern California. Along with the description, the authors discuss its placement in the subgeneric rank, and the inherent problems associated with the *Simnia-Cyphoma-Phenacovolva* group, [Schilder's tribe *Simniini*]. The holotype was deposited in the Delaware Museum of Natural History, collected at Perlas Islands, Pacific Panama, Isla Gobernador.



Phenacovolva (Subsimnia) lenoreae Cardin and Walls, 1980, collected at Cebaco Island, Montijo Gulf, Pacific Panama; Photo by Richard Goldberg.

CONVENTION SHELLING...Con't. from Page 8

pupa, and many more delicate bits of sea life such as coral.

Mari and Bill Hughes and I shared a motel room nearby, and next door were two couples from Ft. Myers -- lucky for me as they took me shelling and to the auction when I got separated from the Hughes'. I beachcombed and took a nicely shaped *Ircinia campana* or Vase Sponge [which I used to call Basket Sponge] and it smelled up their car pretty badly! I got it home and am working on the smell with shellcraft in mind. Someone collected a beached cluster of *Callyspongia vaginalis* or Tube Sponge. Mari found an extra-large and colorful *Stenoplax floridana*, Florida Slender Chiton #4653 [or was it *S. purpurascens* #4654??]. She held it down with a rubber band on a tongue depressor. However we split that flat stick to the same width as this delicate and rather fleshy chiton, and with strips from a rag we bound it securely. We did not make it tight enough to damage it and put it in a pill bottle of alcohol for several days. Mari has instructions to let it dry thoroughly before unwrapping this very special specimen.

One conventioneer brought in a tiny, dark purple and immature Cowrie, asking "What is it?" Cowrie shells when fresh taken are very dark, nearly purple, but fade very quickly. If you take an immature Cowrie or *Cypraea*, the color will really fade. An immature specimen plainly shows the stripes over the face even though the teeth have formed. Unless taken to show an immature shell vs a mature one, they will be a disgrace to us in our collection. I wonder why young cowrie shells are striped, but sure do know why they got the names zebra and tiger. The convention program that I liked the best was about our two large *Cypraea* -- *zebra* #1638 and *cervus* #1639, although I might disagree on its premise. Turn to Abbott's 1974 volume of "American Seashells" page 149 and reread his remarks on these two shells. Sometimes both have ocellated spots and even *C. zebra* does not have ocellated spots sometimes...

Shells In...Con't from Page 5

cies of mollusks, birds, crustaceans, etc. found on the various zones around the sandy Cape Cod. THE ROCKY SHORE is similar, centering around the state of Maine. The books are in an easy-reading style, with illustrations interspersed. I found the molluscan names [common and latin] and the illustrations of the species to be very accurate. I would highly recommend each to both beginners and children with an interest of the sea, and to anyone with an interest in our coastal shore-lines. Both list at $4.95 each.

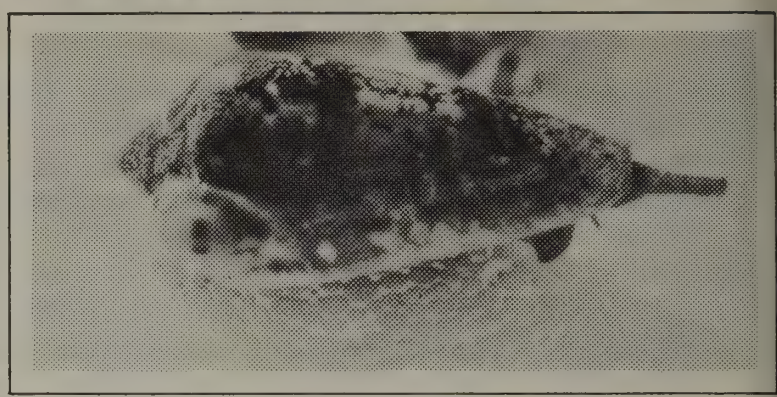
Collectors gather on the hotel water front to see what shells had washed up in the wind from Hurricane Allen's outer reaches.

SHELLING NOTES FROM THE FLORIDA KEYS

by Caroline Harnack, Key West, Fl.

The Florida Keys tend to be pretty isolated, but collecting is tops. We're out each weekend until the weather gets frosty for us [70 degrees]. As long as it's in the 80 degree range, we're in the water. A handy tip that diving collectors might want to try when sea urchins and moray eels are encountered in their shelling is to use a fish gaff to turn rocks. Turning the edge of the rock away from you will keep the moray from scooting towards you, and away from your area. You won't have to worry about sea urchins at all. An added benefit is that "gaff + arm length" is great for snorkelers to reach down to the bottom and turn rocks without submerging your snorkel until some goodies are spotted. A gaff also gives much greater leverage for turning up rocks, and replacing them as found. Gibralter-sized rocks can actually be moved rather than wishing they could.

I got all fired up about keeping live mollusks in an aquarium at this year's C.O.A. convention after seeing some of the slide presentations showing the live animals in situ and in tanks. Subsequently, I have set up my own tank which is fantastic. Years ago [back in the dark ages] I used to ship marine tropicals, but this is much more interesting. *Conus regius* Gmelin, 1791, feast in groups on *Hermodice carunculata*, commonly known as a fire or bristle worm. These are collected very carefully since they sting very badly with the added problem of leaving one's hand bespangled with the bristles. I have observed *Conus regius* track down, sting [with their radula harpoon] and consume the worms, skin, bristles and all. We haven't noticed very much difference between day and night collecting in the field, but in the tank, even with the lights on, there is a noticeable difference. Everything starts stirring at about 7:00 P.M., and the nightly hunt is on [has to be locked in biorhythum!]. The *Conus regius* are so sated that they can't withdraw back into their shells. The part of the animal left exposed is about the same size as the distance between growth lines [noticable when the periostracum is removed]. After their feast, all bury themselves in the sand, and I think probably putting on more shell to cover their nudity! With the proper care and maintanence of the tank, might it not be possible to grow your own crop of record sized shells? Think about it.



A live Conus regius Gmelin, 1791, collected at Middle Sambo Reef. Attached to the spire is a Trivia pediculus (Linne, 1758). Photo by Richard Goldberg.

I have also gotten *Conus daucus* Hwass 1792, for the first time in two years of really serious shelling on the reef. The three that we have are beautifully colored one being a cantelope orange, one a gaudy orange, and the third a red of brilliant hue. All three have pink apertures. Bob [Boyer] is estatic as cones are his interest. In my department I have a pair of *Cymatium nicobaricum* (Roding, 1798), a pair of *Bursa granularis cubaniana* (Orbign 1842), and a *Bursa thomae* (Orbigny, 1842), rare here, with a lovely lavender aperture *Bursa granularis cubaniana* is uncommon, so I was pleased to find two on the same dive Also in the tank is a 5 inch *Charonia variegata* (Lamarck, 1816), that is something o a gourmet, prefering hermit crab tails served on fingers, rather than its normal far of sea urchins and starfish [preferably served every fourth day, three at a time]. Nothing plebian about this chap!

If anyone knows what *Conus daucus* pre upon, I would appreciate having the information passed on, as I have not witnessed them eating [my address is in the masthead I have offered them numerous mollusks foun commonly on the reef in the area they were collected, but it doesn't interest them as food. I rather suspect them to be vermivo rus by their aperture, but what kind poses something of a problem. There are many species of worms to choose from, but I rea don't need any superfluous worms in the ta

These species were collected at Middl Sambo Reef, in the lower Keys, just in cas you thought only bikini-clad damsels inhab ited it [in reference to Carl Smith's slid presentation, "Collecting at the Sambo's" given at this years C.O.A. convention]. Need I say more!

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CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN
NUMBER 22

1981 CONVENTION SET FOR SAN FRANCISCO

The 1981 Convention of the Conchologists of America will convene in San Francisco on September 2-5, hosted by the Northern California Malacozoological Club. The convention site will be the Miyako Hotel in the Japan Center, and hotel room rates have been set at a flat rate of $60.00 per night, for a single or double. These rates were specially arranged for the C.O.A. and are lower than the normal rates for this time of year.

Pre-reservation cards for hotel rooms and convention will be mailed out in June. A preliminary program will appear in the June 1981(#24) issue of the C.O.A. Bulletin. Those who are interested in presenting a talk, slide or movie presentation, are asked to send a resume and description of projection equipment needed and length of talk to Mr. Clair Stahl, 3235 N.E. 61st St., Portland, OR, 97213. The most appropriate will be organized into the program.

The annual auction of donated shells will be held again, and your contributions are most welcomed. Last year's donations helped make it the biggest and best auction in the history of C.O.A. Let's try and top that figure this year. Donations will be received and catalogued by Mr. Phillip Clover, P.O. Box 83, Glen Ellen,CA, 95442.

The very popular Dealer's Bourse, as in the past, will be offered at two or more sessions. Here you will have a chance to meet and purchase shells from numerous shell dealers from around the country. Last year over 20 dealers participated in the Bourse.

[con't on page 4]

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC.

A Collective Devotion To Advancing- Conchology.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC. was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: R. Wayne Stevens; 1835 N.E. 16th Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97212
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SECRETARY: Mary Snediker, 2562 Ramona Street, East Meadow, New York, 11554
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EDITOR: Richard Goldberg

ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER: Marc Goldberg

The BULLETIN is an official publication of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC., published quarterly in March, June, September and December. We invite you to submit any shell related items for inclusion in the BULLETIN. Address all BULLETIN correspondence to the EDITOR, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

*INDIVIDUAL(per year) $5.00; FAMILY(receives one Bulletin) $7.00; OVERSEAS(Air Mail Postage) $10.00; Send check or money order to the TREASURER(address above); ***Any other membership problems should be addressed to the MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON, Phyllis Pipher, 1116 'N' St., Tekamah, Nebraska, 68061.*

FEED-BACK FEED-BACK FEED-BACK

[In response to the Feedback letter in the March 1980/No. 19 issue of the Bulletin, relative to shell book middlemen and brokers, the following was received]

The price of books has risen tremendously in the last few years, reflecting the rising cost of oil which in turn has made film, inks and paper soar in price. For example, "Pathways in Malacology," produced and sold in the Netherlands (295 pages and no plates) retails for $75.00; "Economic Malacology" (150 pages and 5 figures) sells for $25.00; and American-produced book on shell stamps with 110 pages, 20 color plates, sells for $20.80. Publishing today is not a great money-making field, despite the hefty prices.

In my publishing company, being aware of the need for inexpensive books, have kept prices as low as possible. When we import a book from overseas in bulk quantities, we pass on the 30 to 40% discount for the foreign publisher to the American bookseller, adding the costs of shipping, customs clearing, and trucking. We add a 10% profit for the service of stocking and handling the book. American customers may purchase a foreign book from overseas, but the cost, after bank clearing charges and postage, turns out to be about what American booksellers charge.

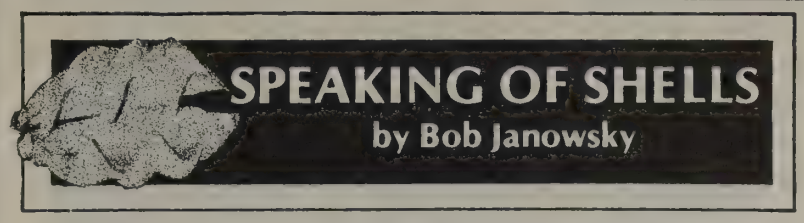
R. Tucker Abbott, President
American Malacologists, Inc.

THE C.O.A. LOGO SHELL

The shell used in our club logo is *Neptunea lyrata decemcostata* (Say, 1826). Common names associated with this shell include *THE TEN-RIDGED NEPTUNE or WHELK, MANY-KEELED NEPTUNE and the NEW ENGLAND NEPTUNE*. Its range is in the Western Atlantic from Nova Scotia to off North Carolina. It is a subspecies of the *NORTHWEST WHELK, N. lyrata* (Gmelin, 1791). The name is derived from the latin *decem costa* meaning ten rib. It is often taken by lobstermen in their pots, and occasionally washed up on beaches in New England.

The original design of the shell incorporated into the club logo was by C.O.A. member Gary Magnotte and appeared for the first time in issue #6 of the C.O.A. Bulletin. The shell was re-designed for the new club logo last year by Marc Goldberg, the Bulletin Art Director.

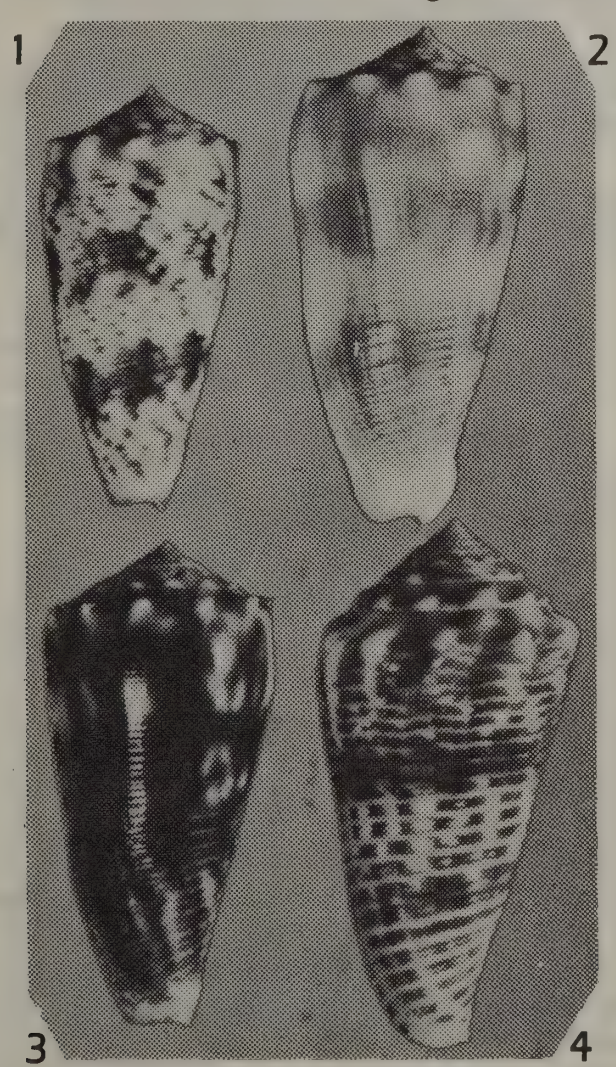
It is assumed that the shell was originally selected because of its association with New England and Rhode Island, locality of the first C.O.A. convention, held in October 1972.



The Conus Moluccensis Complex

Conus moluccensis Kuster, 1838, has been a favorite among collectors everywhere because of its attractive color and graceful shape. It has a rather wide range of distribution from Okinawa [or the southern part of Japan], into New Caledonia and perhaps even further to the south. It is a species that is never easy to find in collections despite the large range it occupies. It is still considered among the rarest of the *Conus*. It is a deep water species which probably accounts a great deal for its scarcity -- the shallowest record of live collected specimens that I can ascertain is 25 meters although it probably has been taken at far less depths.

One feature of *C. moluccensis* that is seldom discussed is its great variability. The four remarkable specimens illustrated here are from the collection of Mr. Miguel Parcerisas Roses of Barcelona, Spain, and represent almost the complete gamut of variation found in this species. Figure #1 is a 40mm specimen of *C. moluccensis* collected at Bonegi, Guadalcanal Island, Solomons, at about 25 meters at night on a sandy bottom among coral heads. This variety is generally smaller than other varieties of *C. moluccensis*. It is best described as having a light cream color with two strong orange/brown interrupted bands around the body whorl. The body whorl is completely encircled by numerous raised ridges which exhibit irregular brown/orange dots and dashes. The shoulder is strongly coronate as it is in every other form of this species. This variety of *C. moluccensis* was described as a separate species, *Conus stainforthi* by Reeve in 1843.



Conus moluccensis Kuster, 1838 [variations] #1/Guadalcanal, Solomons; #2/Okinawa, Japan; #3/Celebes Island, Philippines; #4/Balut Island, Philippines. Photos by R. Janowsky.

Figure #2 represents what I *used to call* the "typical form" of the species as I am convinced there is no typical form. If there is, it at least is closest to the shell described by Kuster. This specimen measures 46mm and was collected by a diver at 60m off Bolo Point, Okinawa Island, Japan. It is a light orange/cream ground color, and has two stronger orange bands on the body whorl. There are two less distinct bands, one below the shoulder and one above the anterior canal. It usually has some incised grooves encircling the body whorl -- generally strongest near the anterior canal, but in no way are they as strongly evident as the ridges in the previously discussed variety. Often there is a pattern of nebulous axial line of orange over the entire body whorl. Another form closely akin to this is found in New Caledonia. It is generally a larger shell [I have seen them up to 53mm, but have reason to suspect that larger ones exist] and one in which the overall color of the body whorl is less orange and more cream; the bands and pattern are of a much more intense red/orange hue than the Okinawan specimens. This form is called *Conus merletti*. I do not believe this form has ever received a scientific description, but it is one of those *popular* names that often tend to greatly confuse shell collectors. The only appearance of the name *C. merletti* in anything that resembles a scientific work

[con't on page 4]

Convention 1981. . .Con't from Page 1

Once again the shell book "give-away" door prizes will encourage prompt attendance at programs. Shell and shell-related books will be given away throughout the convention, and kept on display for your viewing. These books have been generously donated by their publishers.

Since collecting on California beaches are restricted by law, there will be field trips to visit collections and shell-related exhibits. Along with these events, you will get a chance to socialize with collectors from around the country and world.

On Saturday evening, the convention will end with the Banquet, with entertainment and a very special guest speaker. This is a great way to wind up four days of non-stop shell related activities.

The C.O.A. conventions have become the shelling highlight of the year. Come be part of it. Start planning around the convention dates [By-the-way, the dates fall before Labor Day, so schools and universities will not be in session then]. Further inquiries can be made to Mr. Elmo W. Adams, General Convention Chairman; 747 Winchester Drive, Burlingame, CA, 94010.

Speaking Of. . .Con't from Page 3

is in a paper backed book called *COQUILLAGES DE NOUVELLE-CALEDONIE ET DE MELANESIE* by Sarkis Mayissian published by Les Presses des Reunies de Noumea, in April 1974 [page 46]. This description is brief and would not constitue a valid description of a species under current I.C.Z.N. rules. Very often these specimens from New Caledonia have deeply incised grooves on the body whorl over its entire length.

Figure #3 is an extremely interesting form collected from Celebes Island, Philippines in a tangle net at approximately 150-170m. This specimen measures 50mm and another specimen like it 36mm in length can be found on page 738 of *CONE SHELLS* by Jerry G. Walls. The most remarkable feature of this form is its coloration. The ground color is the same as the others mentioned here, but the color of the bands and the width of the axial streaks are dark and intense red/brown. The axial streaks are a unique feature of this shell, and in my opinion make it the most attractive of the *moluccensis* forms.

Figure #4 is a 50mm specimen obtained from approximately 200m depth in a tangle net off Balut Island, Philippines. I have seen several other examples of this form over the past few months, but this was the only live taken specimen. It has a most decidedly different appearance As in the other forms, the ground color is cream, the bands are two in number, thin, and almost continuous. The bands are dark rust/brown in color and the same color is found on the numerous dots and dashes that encircle the shell. The entire body whorl is encircled by very deeply incised grooves. The shoulder is sloped sharply in this form, and the coronations are thickened and club-like, as opposed to sharp and distinct in the previously discussed forms. It is a most remarkable specimen of this species.

One must pause though and give wonder to what even more fantastic shapes and colors of the *C. moluccensis* complex remain still unseen and unknown.

NEW FLORIDA SHELL CLUB

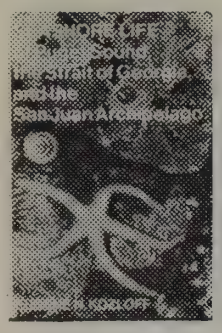
THE GULF COAST SHELL CLUB, INC. has been formed as the 15th shell club in the state of Florida. It was formed out of a need for collectors in the Panama City area to have a club in their local area. Presently there are 29 adult and 6 junior members, reports Bob Granda, one of the club's founders.

Their first meeting was held in September 1980, and meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Westside Mens Club, Panama City. Starting time is 7:00 P.M., and visitors are welcome. The club's shell is *Argopecten irradians concentricus* (Say, 1822) and doubles as their club logo. A newsletter is hoped to begin publication in February. The first field trip was held in November 1980.

The fiscal year runs from February to January and dues are $5.00 for a single membership; $7.00 family membership, plus a $5.00 initiation fee. Inquiries can be made to The Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc.; c/o 925 Rosemont Drive, Panama City, FL, 32405. Conchologists of America extends its best wishes to this new club.

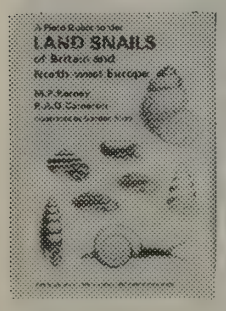
SHELLS IN PRINT

By Richard Goldberg

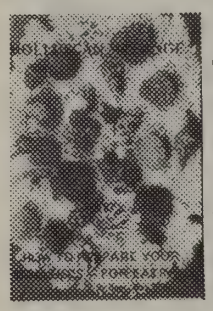


SEASHORE LIFE OF PUGET SOUND, THE STRAIT OF GEORGIA, AND THE SAN JUAN ARCHIPELAGO by Eugene N. Kozloff, is an informative book dealing with the more common marine life likely to be encountered in the protected shorelines of Puget Sound and the surrounding areas. The introduction of this 362 page volume gives an outline of the geographical area, description of the tides, and a short section on conservation. The second chapter gives a layman's introduction to Zoology and Botany, including an illustrated synopsis of invertebrates likely to be confronted at the shore. This section is packed with a wealth of information. The illustrations are excellent and very useful. The remainder of the book is sectioned into the various habitats found in this geographical area, e.g. Rocky Shores, Floating Docks and Pilings, Sandy Beaches and Quiet Bays, and the species of animals and plants found in these particular habitats.

There are 225 black-and-white, and 68 color photographs illustrating many species described in the text. The photographs are excellent and most show the living marine animal or plant in situ. Many molluscan species are included. A glossary and bibliography for further reading round out the book. The publisher is University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA, 98105, and it retails for $15.00 [cloth-bound] $8.95 [paperback]. SEASHORE LIFE OF PUGET SOUND...is a top notch field guide; a must for anyone who intends to collect in this area, or has an interest in a variety of marine seashore life.



A FIELD GUIDE TO THE LAND SNAILS OF BRITAIN AND NORTH-WEST EUROPE by M.P. Kerney and R.A.D. Cameron was published in 1979, but might not be widely familiar with collector in this country. The book covers about 300 species of shelled and shellless terrestrial mollusks. Its scope is vast, and has 649 illustrations [408 in color]. The back has distribution maps for the species in Europe and an additional 116 distribution maps for the species in Britain. The introduction is packed with information about the anatomy, structure, classification, collecting and identification of the terrestrial mollusks. A word must be made about the illustrations. In most cases, they are more useful than photographs, detailing the finest axial rib or other surface structure. A few I found to be deceiving, but the short, complete text descriptions were helpful. Taxonomically this book is tops. Family, Subfamily, and genera are layed out systematically, including a systematic check-list at the beginning of the species section. This book is a must for those who have even the slightest interest in land shells. It is published by Collins of London and is a field guide size edition [288 pages]. It sells for £5.50 [English pounds]. I have not been able to find out whether any U.S. book dealers distribute this title , but an inquiry might bring you the needed answers.



MOLLUSCAN MELANGE-HOW TO PREPARE YOUR MOLLUSCS FOR EATING by Capt. Alex Roth is a diverse softback book covering numerous recipes using mollusks as the main ingredient. The introduction acquaints us with the mollusk, from millions of years ago, to the make up of recent species, their shell, the animal, and a short history of the mollusk as a food source. The types of mollusks eaten worldwide are discussed. The next section deals with the various families of marine gastropods, bivalves, pulmonata, polyplacophora, and cephalopoda used as food items, where and how they are eaten [eating raw chitons?!]. The rest of this 148 page book has many recipes, grouped by type of mollusk -- conch, whelk, mussels, etc. This is probably the most complete guide and recipe book on preparing and understanding the use of mollusks as food. It is published by Aljemasu Enterprises, P.O. Box 7867, Tamuning, Guam, 96911, and retails for $6.75.

[con't on page 10]

C.O.A. "Grand Trophy" 1980

(And Participating Shows)

[It was reported at the Eighth Annual C.O.A. Convention, in Key West, that 20 shell shows participated in the Awards Programs in 1980. Here are the final reports of the 1980 season.]

The Annual Shell Show of THE BRITISH SHELL COLLECTOR'S CLUB was held in London on May 10th. There was an outstanding series of displays which gave a good indication of the quality of shells held in British private collections. The individual displays showed a definite improvement from previous shows, and by common consent this year's were the best yet. The number of people attending were up significantly. The C.O.A. Grand Trophy, premier award at the show, was won by Fred Pinn who displayed a magnificent collection of Indian marine shells collected in the Bengal area. Many were self-collected.

Fred Pinn's award winning display at the British Show, "Gastropoda of S. India."

The exhibit was entitled "Gastropoda of Pondicherry, South India." They were displayed with full collecting data and background information. The show judges were Mrs. Kety Nicolay[editor of La Conchiglia], Dr. Mario Angioy, Mr. T.E. Crowley and Janet Sawyer. The awards were presented by Lady Hooper.

The Sixteenth Annual Shell Show of the JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB was held on August 1-3 at the Flag Pavilion at Jacksonville Beach. Over 3000 visitors were reported to have attended. Exhibitors came from California, Kentucky, Nebraska, New York, Virginia, and West Germany. The show even got publicity on television. Winners of the C.O.A. Award were Bernie and Phyllis Pipher of Tekamah, Nebraska with their exhibit of "Worldwide *Conidae*."

Bernie and Phyllis Pipher proudly show their C.O.A. Grand Trophy won at the Jacksonville Shell Show for Worldwide Conidae.

Over 700 specimens of cones were displayed in 21 cases, two-by-two feet each. The cones were arranged according to their geographical areas. It was entered in the "One Genus" category and won the blue ribbon. They also entered a *Conus cervus* separately in the rare shell category, which won "Shell of Show."

The C.O.A. Grand Trophy winner at the MIDWEST REGIONAL SHELL SHOW of the INDIANAPOLIS SHELL CLUB was Justyn Blackwell of Carmel, Indiana. The show was held on August 16 & 17 at the Glendale Mall in Indianapolis. Judges for the show included Russel H. Jensen, Joe A. Ellul and James D. Casey. Justyn's winning display consisted of 13 cases of the Family *Pectinidae*. Four cases were devoted to fossil *Pectens* and covered over 300 million years of *Pecten* development. The remaining cases

Joe A. Ellul presents the C.O.A. Trophy to Justyn Blackwell at the Judge's Breakfast, for her winning display of Pectens at the Midwest Regional Shell Show.

[con't on page 9]

SHELLING THE SOUTHWEST COAST OF TAIWAN

by George Weitlauf, Largo, FL.

Having shelled much of the coast of Taiwan, I think the southwest coast and off shore islands are the most productive for shells and varied shelling habitats. Though on a scenic standpoint, the east coast is more beautiful.

The southwest coast offers a multitude of choices for the sheller who, like myself, does not scuba, but confines himself to shallow water snorkel and wading efforts. There are miles of sandy beaches that shelve gently into the South China Sea. Equally lengthy areas of mountains march to [or almost to] the sea, and provide the sheller a grab bag of conditions such as rocky promontories, broken rocky reefs, small bays, tidal pools, underwater caves and coves of all sizes strewn with rock and rubble. Off shore there is a multitude of islands, many which are surrounded by wide rocky reefs covered by shallow water and broken by crevices and coves.

The sandy beaches slope very gradually into the South China Sea, and are best shelled during calm periods, as the fine sand makes the water quite murky during high winds. When the water is calm and clear a number of species can be found in about six feet of water at low tide. Some common species found include *Turritella bacillum*, *T. terebra*, *Architectonica maxima*, *Tugurium exutum*, *Tibia fusus*, *Strombus canarium*, *Lioconcha castrensis*, and various *Tellina* and *Cerithium*.

The South China Sea is strongly affected by storms, due to the shallow nature of its vast areas -- especially the seasonal typhoons. After high winds and seas, it is quite common to find shells on the beach from deeper zones. Many of these are in fine condition and still alive or fresh dead. The normally unproductive beach shelling, can be very good if you can brave the elements and do not mind getting wet from heavy rains, winds and wave conditions.

When shelling the more southern regions where rocky conditions exist, I make my home base a small town called Ken-Ting, some ten miles from Olaunpi. Olaunpi is the southern most tip of Taiwan. Housing is readily available here and is near the Ken-Ting National Forest. The national forest is five miles up into the mountains, and is reputed to have over 300 species of trees and shrubs. It is a beautiful area with paved walks throughout. Wildlife abounds including birds, bright yellow land crabs, and butterflies. Ferns, fern trees and orchids are everywhere. The Forestry Department runs two hotel facilities in connection with this forest, which are generally hard to find in this section of Taiwan.

To the north and south of Ken-Ting Beach is a rocky coastline. It is a wide rocky reef or shelf-like area that extends into the sea, varying in width up to 100 yards. The sea surges through many broken crevices in the shelf area. Tidal pools form on the land side of the crevices by water rushing through the confined spaces. At high tide the rocky shelf is totally covered, but sometimes completely exposed at low tide.

The varied terrain is home for an assortment of mollusks. *Cypraea annulus* and *C. moneta* are everywhere when the low tide barely covers the rocky reef, and do not hide even in the bright sun. *Cypraea arabica* and *C. eglantina* hide among almost every rock at the base of the crevices. They seem to like turbulent seas. *Chitons* cling to the sides of rocks in rough water areas. They are hard to see with their hairy cover, and even harder to dislodge. An assortment of Limpets are on the sea side of the reef and on the sides of crevices. They are wonderful to eat raw, especially when freshly pried from the rock. *Drupa lobata*, *D. ricinus*, *D. grossularia* and *D. morum* are found in the same general area as the limpets. *Conus chaldeus* and *C. ebraeus* are found in the cracks and crevices at the sea edge of the reef and in rough water. Most have reef scars and broken lips due to the rough habitat. Many days I have looked at dozens before finding an unscarred keeper. A number of the *Conus ebraeus* are pale pink and black, rather than the conventional white and black. I had thought this variation might be caused by diet, but both are found in a limited area.

Over a period of many years, water

[con't on page 8]

Southwest Taiwan. . .Con't from Page 7

rushing through breaks and crevices have formed and extensive series of tidal pools. One just north of Ken-Ting is almost 500 yards long, 10-20 yards wide and in spots up to 20 feet deep. Sometimes rushing water forms caves and grottos against soft substrate cliffs. These host a myriad of sea life. Many times I became so enthralled with watching the life that I forgot to shell hunt.

The floor of these pools are composed of very rough sand from broken shells, rocks and coral. Many types of shells are found in the pools, mostly under the rock slabs and dead coral. Some of the common species are *Cypraea bistrinotata*, *C. asellus*, *C. caurica*, *C. lynx*, *C. isabella*, *C. talpa*, *C. limacina*, *Conus coronatus*, *C. flavidus*, *C. glans*, *C. lividus*, *C. textile*, *C. nussatella*, *C. nobilis*, *C. rattus*, *C. striatus*, *Terebra crenulata*, *T. strigilata*, *T. duplicata* and many others including a number of *Mitra*. Almost any shallow water species of the area may be found if you are lucky.

The islands off southwest Taiwan are also interesting to explore and hunt for shells. Chou-Liu-Chiu is typical of these islands. It is just a few miles off shore from the city of Kaoshuing. A one hour boat ride leaves Kaoshuing at 8:00 A.M. and returns about 5:00 P.M. Overnight hotel accomodations on the island are not listed in any hotel guide. If you are fussy, don't plan to stay, but I found them adequate for me. There are several small food establishments in town with outstanding food. No one in town spoke English except for a few young students who wanted to practice the little they knew. This poses no problem if you are good at charades and can point. The shelling is great.

The shelling conditions on the island are much as previously indicated for the rocky areas of Ken-Ting. Most of Chou-Liu-Chiu has a rocky reef or shelf around it with the breaks, crevices and pools. The major difference is outside the port town, you are more likely to find uncommon shells. On this and other islands I found *Mitra papalis*, *M. puncticulata*, *M. stictica*, *M. ferruginea*, *Strigatella scutulata*, and *Vexillum exasperatum*.

During a typhoon on the island of Penghu, I found a large *Bursa bubo* and a large *Phalium areola* in a tidal pool, no more than five feet deep. Both of these are normally deeper water species, but had evidently been thrown up by the storm. Both were hale and hearty. Penghu may be reached by a ship sailing from the port of Kaoshuing several times a week, or by air, daily from Taipei or Tainan. Makung, the town in Penghu where the ships and planes arrive has several adequate hotels.

For some great shelling, Southwest Taiwan is a wonderful alternative.

BETTER IDEAS FOR SHELL COLLECTORS

By Minicyp

In this issue we will deal with ultrasonic cleaners for cleaning shells. Ultrasonic cleaners first came on the market for cleaning delicate electronic parts, jewelry, watches, etc. They were originally rather highly priced. Today they are availavle in the $60-$150 price range, depending on size. The smallest size, one-half pint, will handle shells up to about two inches in size.

An ultrasonic cleaner will do a poor to excellent job on removing external deposits. The quality of the job will depend on the type of encrustations. Organic depostis should be removed first.

Ultrasonic cleaners will also do a fair to excellent job of removing the animal from the shell. They are about the only way to remove the internal parts from fragile transparent shells, and are the only means for cleaning small shells which are difficult to clean any other method. These cleaners also work well on shells with ornate external shell decoration.

A number of companies that market ultrasonic cleaners also sell cleaning agents for various purposes. However, a mixture of ¼ heavy duty household liquid detergent and 3/4 water is usually satisfactory for most jobs. Dry laundry detergent in the ratio of one heaping tablespoon to a pint of water is also good. For difficult shells the addition of ¼ teaspoon of 200 to 400 mesh grinding compound (available at any rock shop), to the pint of cleaning solution will sometimes help. If you use grinding compound be sure to wash out your cleaner immediately after use.

[con't on page 11]

Grand Trophy. . .Con't from Page 6

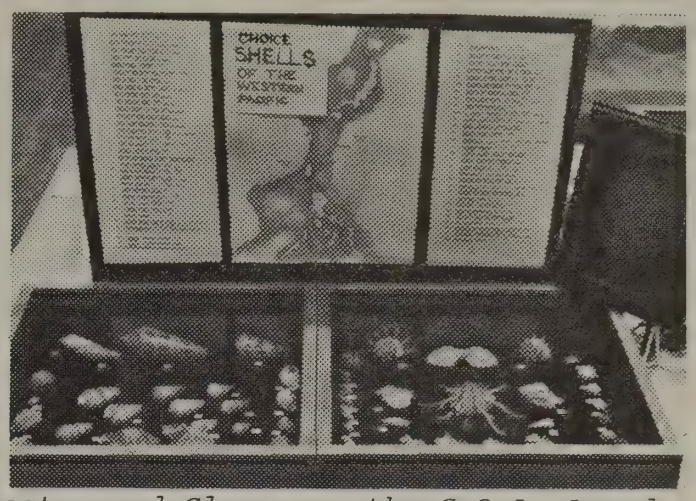
contained approximately 200 species of living *Pectens*, including seldom seen species. The exhibit also won a blue ribbon in the "One Family" category. Mrs. Blackwell, a life-long "rockhound" started collecting shells seriously about 5 years ago. Shortly after she joined the Indianapolis Shell Club. She credits her enthusiasm for the hobby to membership in the Indianapolis and Naples Shell Clubs, where she is able to come in contact with knowledgeable collectors.

Tom and Maxine Hale's award winning exhibit "Exotic Sea Shells," won at the Oregon Show.

Thomas and Maxine Hale won the Grand Trophy at the OREGON SHELL SHOW sponsored by the OREGON SOCIETY OF CONCHOLOGISTS. Their winning exhibit was entitled "Exotic Sea Shells," and was displayed in one case, 8 feet long, 2 feet wide and 2 feet high. There were 5 parts to the display with 3 to 4 shells on each; *Conus*, *Spondylus & Spondylus* clusters, *Voluta*, and *Carrier Shells*. Most of the shells were uncommon. The Hale's started collecting in 1965 and are interested in most families, although they tend to have more cones than anything else.

The SANTA BARBARA MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY held its 1980 WEST COAST SHELL SHOW on September 19-21 at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The judges were Anthony D'Attilio, Ruth Greenberg, and Clifton Martin. The show included 61 collections and 18 single specimens entered by 25 exhibitors. The C.O.A. Trophy was won by Robert Foster and Charles Glass for the second year in a row. Their award-winning display was entitled "Choice Shells of the Western Pacific."

THE GREATER ST. LOUIS SHELL CLUB held its METROPOLITAN SEA SHELL SHOW on



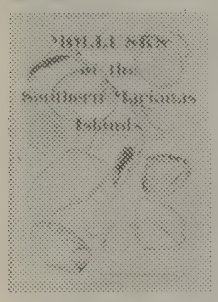
Foster and Glass won the C.O.A. Award for their display "Choice Shells of the Western Pacific," at the 1980 West Coast Shell Show.

April 11-13. Judges for the show were Dr. R. Tucker Abbott and Mrs. Selma Lawson, and Dr. James Houser, curator of the St. Louis Museum of Science and Natural History. The show had 49 competitive entries in 17 categories, with almost 350 feet of exhibits. Linda Bush of Kirkwood, Missouri won the C.O.A. Award for her display entitled *Pectinidae*. Although the exhibit contained roughly 25% of the extant species of *Pectens*, the 19 foot exhibit had a wealth of information on the family, with individual units devoted to the anatomy and mode of swimming, individual variation, geographical distribution, miniature *Pectens*, the culinary use of the scallop, the species *Lyropecten nodosus*, and the influence of the shell form in art and architecture. Linda said that she was proud to have won the award which she considers to be the best of the awards available at the U.S. shell shows. She said, "My ambition now is to someday win it with an exhibit of miniatures, my other special love." Occupationally, Linda is a minister of music and a housewife, but says that her shells supply unlimited hours of delightful recreation.

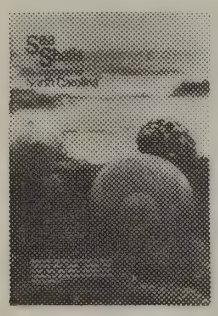
Winner of the Grand Trophy at the SARASOTA SHELL SHOW [reported on in Bulletin #19, March 1980] was Leonell C. Strong of Norton, Virginia. His exhibit was entitled "Family *Volutidae*," and encompassed 23 cases of approximately 61 feet in length. It included all nine subfamilies, with over 450 shells in all. Some of the specimens displayed included, *V. annulatum*, *cloveriana*,

[con't on page 11]

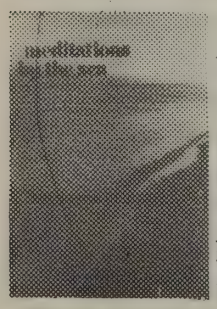
Shells In. . .Con't from Page 5



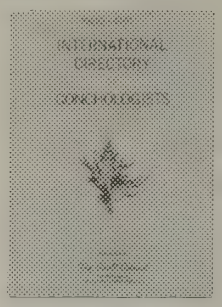
MOLLUSKS OF THE SOUTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS is another softback book by Capt. Alex Roth, dealing with the marine, land, and freshwater shells found on Guam. This is an extensive checklist, with no illustrations. The author states that not all classes of mollusks have been included due to the paucity of information available on them locally. [chitons and cephalopods mainly]. It lists the species systematically with the author and date, and includes source information on verification of the shell find [a few are speculative though]. There is an alphabetical index to the family and species names. The introduction discusses the surrounding waters. The book is available through Aljemasu Enterprises [address above], and costs $5.75.



SEA SHELLS COMMON TO NORTH CAROLINA by Hugh J. Porter and Jim Tyler is a 36 page booklet illustrating and describing the marine gastropods and bivalves likely to be encountered on the shores of North Carolina. It was published under a University of North Carolina Sea Grant College Program. The booklet is set up as a key to the species, with photographs, line drawings, and descriptions of the species. It is a nice little booklet, especially suited to the beginning shell collector. The cost is 50¢. More information can be gotten through the North Carolina Dept. of Natural & Ecomonic Resources, Division of Marine Fisheries, Morehead City, N.C., 28557.

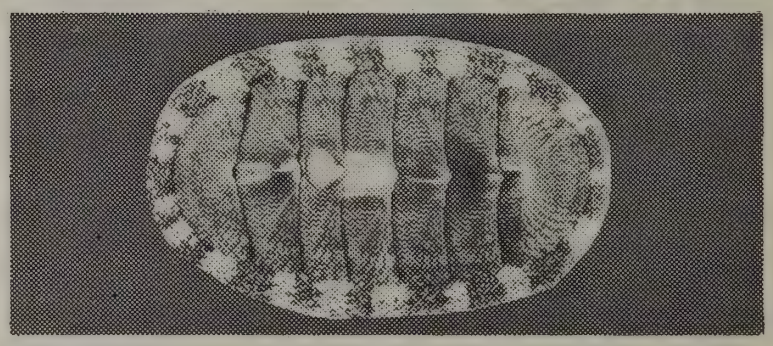


MEDITATIONS BY THE SEA by Marion Rawson Vuilleumier is a totally different type of book than has been reviewed in this column in the past. In this 128 page softback book Marion Vuilleumier, a feature writer and book reviewer for the Cape Cod Times, has taken her inspiration from many trips to the seashore and written meditations equating the oceans beauty with spiritual meanings. This is a meaningful book for those who love the ocean's eternal beauty, each message is enhanced by a scripture verse and a brief prayer. It is published by Abingdon, 201 Eighth Ave. South, Nashville, TN, 37202, and costs $4.95.



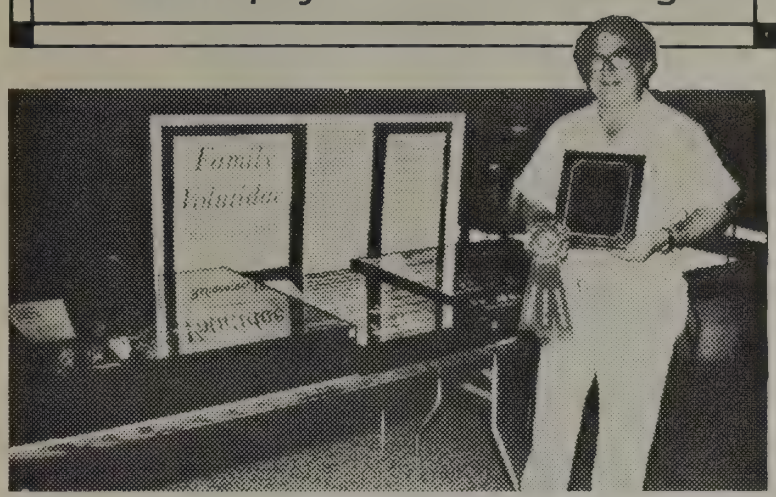
The 1980-1981 INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF CONCHOLOGISTS is published through the Shell Cabinet, P.O. Box 29, Falls Church, VA, 22046. The directory lists hundreds of collectors from around the country and world, their interests in shelling [areas, families], and whether they are interested in exchanging. This is an invaluable guide for those wishing to expand your trading contacts. The softback booklet is 56 pages and costs $4.50, available through the Shell Cabinet.

SHORT-CHANGED



Do you notice something odd about this Chiton tuberculatus Linne, 1758? Counting the valves, you'll notice it has seven instead of the normal eight. A characteristic of the Polyplacophora is the appearance of 8 shelly plates, encircled by a girdle. In the American Malacological Union's Symposium of "How to Study and Collect Shells," [page 47], S. Stillman Berry wrote, "Specimens with supernumerary valves appear to be by all odds the rarest; a very few with 9 valves(I, myself, have seen precisely one), and none, so far as I can learn, with more than 9 are recorded in literature. Those with valve deficiencies on the other hand are of very much more frequent occurrence." This specimen of C. tuberculatus was collected by Frank Robb of Carolina, Puerto Rico, at Las Croabas, P.R., in October 1980. It measures 48.5mm in length. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

Grand Trophy. . .Con't from Page 9



Leonell Strong shows his C.O.A. Grand Trophy and ribbons won for "Family Volutidae," at the Sarasota Shell Show.

festiva, *queketti*, *lasaroni*, *rossiniana*, *tawanica*, *planicostata*, *ponsobyii*, *semirugata*, *contoyiensis*, and the world record size *Voluta magnifica*. The exhibit was entered in the "One Family-Univalves" category, and won many other awards at previous shell shows [including "Shell of Fair" for *V. cloveriana* at the 1980 St. Petersburg Shell Show].

Gene Everson of Lauderhill, Florida won the C.O.A. Award at the ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW for his exhibit entitled *Cassidae* - The Helmet Shells. There were seven cases displaying all genera of the family, highlighted by the first photograph and record of a *Morum* radula, man's use of *Cassis*, fossil representatives, freaks, egg cases, echinoderms(fed upon by *Cassis*), X-rays, sliced shells of each genus showing internal structure, photographs of live specimens and feeding sequences. Gene's exhibit has won many other awards at various shows around Florida.

Some of the large Cassis, part of Gene Everson's award winning exhibit, "Cassidae - The Helmet Shells," won at the St. Petersburg Shell Show.

The 1981 Shell Show season is in full swing. The ASTRONAUT TRAIL SHELL CLUB annouced it held its THIRD ANNUAL SHELL SHOW on January 17-18 at Kiwanis Island. We will have a full report in the next Bulletin.

The BROWARD SHELL CLUB will hold its 17th ANNUAL SHELL SHOW from February 6-8 at the Pompano Beach Recreation Center, 1801 N.E. 6th Street, Pompano Beach, Florida. The show is open to the public on Friday, Feb. 6 and Sat., Feb. 7 from 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. and Sun., Feb. 8 from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. All are invited to attend.

The GEORGIA SHELL CLUB will hold its THIRD ANNUAL SHELL SHOW on March 13-15 at Perimeter Mall Shopping Center, 4400 Ashford Dunwoody Rd., Atlanta. A dinner will be held for the members, out of town guests, and judges on Friday evening March 13. Further inquiries can be made to Show Co-chairman, Louise Comptron, 4236 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA, 30067. An open invitation is extended to all.

The 14th ANNUAL SHELL SHOW of the SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CONCHOLOGISTS SOCIETY was held at the Exhibition Hall in Fort Myers, on January 9-11. A report on the show is forthcoming.

Better Ideas. . .Con't from Page 8

DO NOT use liquid bleaches, detergents containing ammonia, lye (sodium hydroxide) or any strong caustic in an ultrasonic cleaner. These materials can severly damage the bowl/cup of the cleaner.

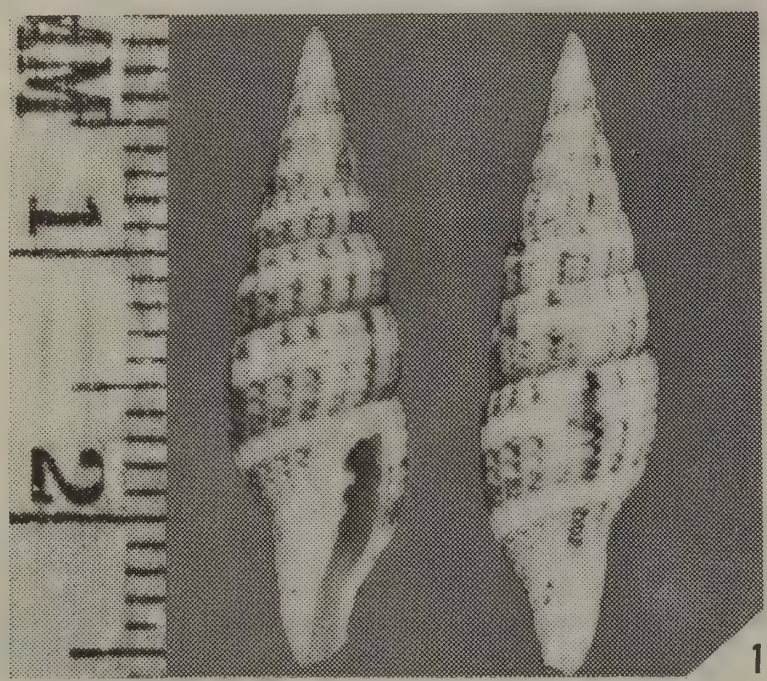
There is no set time requirement for cleaning shells in the cleaner. I usually check the shells after 15-20 minutes. If the shells are not clean they are returned for another round. I have never experienced any damage to even the most fragile shells. However, when experimenting with cleaning solutions, it is best to use shells that you don't care about. Be sure to read the instructions that accompany your cleaner.

In summary, ultrasonic cleaners can be a great help in cleaning small, ornate or delicate shells. They are not the cure-all for cleaning problems. If you have one, or decide to buy one, let us know of your experiences.

DEEPWATER PHILIPPINE SHELLS

photos by Richard Goldberg

The two figured *Mitra* species were taken at Punta Engano, Mactan Island, Cebu, Philippines, at approximately 80 meters deep in bottom nets. *FIGURE 1* is a specimen of *Costellaria takakuwai* (Cernohorsky & Azuma, 1974). It is a rather rare species with a distribution from southern Japan [Okinawa], Taiwan, Philippines and the Solomon Islands.



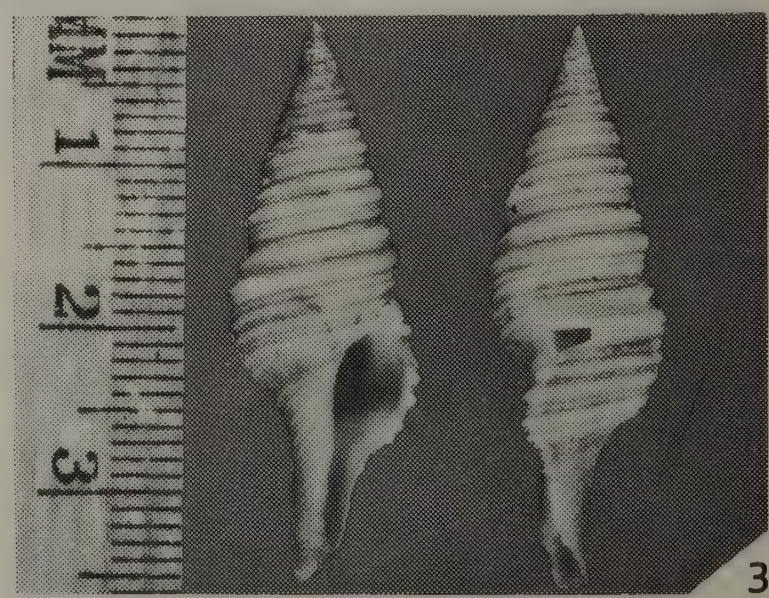
1

It is usually taken at depths greater that 400 feet. Recently they have been taken from the Punta Engano area. Its closest relative is *Costellaria acupictum* (Reeve, 1844), but this is a shallower water species, uncommonly taken at depths between 10 and 75 feet. *C. acupictum* also has a proportionately shorter spire than *C. takakuwai*.

FIGURE 2 illustrates three specimens of *Pusia salisburyi* (Cernohorsky, 1976). The species shows a wide range of colors, from a tannish to red. These three from left to right are red, orange, and dark pinkish/purple. There has been alot of controversy over the identity of this species. Alison Kay considers *P. salisburyi* a synonym of *P. capricornea* (Hedley, 1907). The type locality of *P. capricornea* is Sydney, Australia, and *P. salisburyi* is Pupukea, Hawaii. There has been some speculation that because the type locality of *P. capricornea* is as far south as Sydney, it is in fact a Austromitra. According to mitre specialist Len Hill, the photographs of the type specimens of both are identical, so the true identity remains to be seen. The specimens of *Pusia salisburyi* coming from the Philippines are of exceptional size in comparison to the Hawaiian specimens [usually 5-6mm]. Its closest relative is *Pusia rubrum* (Broderip, 1836) but has a central white band which *P. salisburyi* lacks, and the spire tends to be more nodulose. The left and right specimens illustrated have the nuclear whorls intact.

2

FIGURE 3 has been identified as *Gemmula graeffei* (Weinkauff, 1875), and was taken in bottom nets at approximately 90 meters deep off Samal Island, southern Davao, Philippines. Not visible in the photograph is its extraordinary coloration. The spire and body whorl are golden brown and the siphonal canal is an intense lavendar hue. The coloration made identification of the specimens deceiving in that its typical color is described as a uniform light buff. Specimens were sent to Turrid expert Virginia Maes at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia to verify the identification of the shells.



3

This oddly colored form of *Gemmula graeffei* is just one example of the many beautiful species being taken from the bottom nets in the shelling centers of Punta Engano, Davao, and Balut Island, Philippines. The range of *Gemmula graeffei* is Fiji, Queensland and the Philippines.

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN

NUMBER 23

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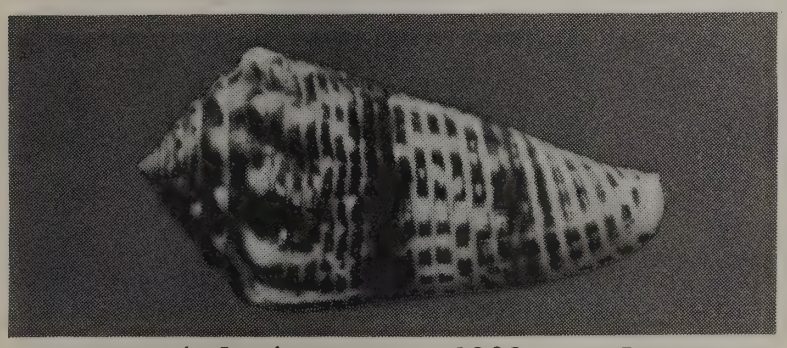
SPEAKING OF SHELLS

by Bob Janowsky

More On The Conus Moluccensis Complex, And Other Thoughts. . .

In my last article (issue #22, December 1980), I discussed a very unusual specimen of *Conus moluccensis* Kuster, 1838, from Balut Island, in the southern Philippines. It comes as no surprise to find that this shell has now been given the specific name, *Conus vicdani* by Sadao Kosuge in the "Bulletin of the Institute of Malacology Tokyo." I am



Conus vicdani Kosuge, 1980, or Conus moluccensis Kuster, 1938, form?, taken off Balut Island, southern Philippines. Photograph by Bob Janowsky.

the first to admit that this shell is in many respects strikingly different from any other form of *Conus moluccensis* that I have seen. On the other hand, I can not help but feel the similarities between *C. moluccensis* and *C. vicdani* are far too great to separate them as entities at a specific level.

(Con't on Page 6)

CONVENTION-UPDATE

Plans for the Ninth Annual C.O.A. Convention, to be held in San Francisco, on September 2-5, are coming along smoothly. The four day event will be held at the Miyako Hotel in the Japan Center. The convention committee, members of the Northern California Malacozoological Club, will be sending out a separate mailing containing all registration, and hotel reservation forms to members of C.O.A.

There has been a call for papers and presentations to be given during the convention, and if you would like to participate in the program, send a resume of your talk with requirements for projection equipment (if any) to: Mr. R. Wayne Stevens, 1835 N.E. 16th Ave., Portland, OR, 97212.

Contributions to the annual auction of donated shells will be greatly appreciated. Last year's auction was the most successful in the organization's history. Only you can help break last year's record with your generous contributions. All donations of shells can be sent to the convention committee c/o Mr. Phillip Clover, P.O. Box 83, Glen Ellen, CA, 95442.

Further questions on the convention can be fowarded to Mr. Elmo W. Adams, General Convention Chairman, 747 Winchester Drive, Burlingame, CA, 94010.

We look foward to seeing you at the convention!

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC.

A Collective Devotion To Advancing- Conchology.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC. was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

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EDITOR: Richard Goldberg

ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER: Marc Goldberg

The BULLETIN is an official publication of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC., published quarterly in March, June, September and December. We invite you to submit any shell related items for inclusion in the BULLETIN. Address all BULLETIN correspondence to the EDITOR, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

*INDIVIDUAL(per year) $5.00; FAMILY(receives one Bulletin) $7.00; OVERSEAS(Air Mail Postage) $10.00; Send check or money order to the TREASURER(address above); ***Any other membership problems should be addressed to the MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON, Phyllis Pipher, 1116 'N' St., Tekamah, Nebraska, 68061.*

FEED-BACK...FEED-BACK...FEED-BACK

NEPTUNEA nondescriptus

I received a letter or two from some of our charter members relative to the article in the last issue, "The C.O.A. Logo Shell." It seems that a number of statements were misrepresented. We're sorry for the inaccuracy and here's how it really is!

The original design for a logo back in 1972 was a *Strombus gigas*, which was designed by our first president's husband. It was decided at the next convention to change it because it was used by some other clubs. A shell was needed that would show no geographical attachment.

A loose design, true of a *Neptunea*, but deliberatly designed not to represent a certain species was selected.

Both coasts have similar ridged species of *Neptunea*. Thus a logo with no geographical affiliation -- just a stylized logo.

The original design for this logo was done by Richard Sedlak of Florida (those who have issue #6 of the C.O.A. Bulletin, scratch Gary Magnotte's name as designer of the drawing on page one; sorry Gary!). So our logo shell is really *Neptunea sp. (nondescriptus?)*.

I'd like to thank Kirk Anders for his archival knowledge of the early years of C.O.A. Maybe he and other charter members will write up a history of C.O.A. for our 10th anniversary issue!

GET WELL WISHES!

I'm sure you will all join me in sending GET WELL WISHES to member and past president, Gerrie Walklet, who had a serious battle with cancer, but the prognosis is looking better every day. We're all thinking of you Gerrie, and will be looking foward to seeing you back out on the reefs collecting, wherever your next shell trip takes you!

Scholarship Honors Jacobson

Malacologists and shell collectors alike were saddened last year by the news that Karl Jacobson had past away. In honor of Morris Karl Jacobson, the Astronaut Trail Shell Club of Brevard County, Florida has offered a grant of $500 to a student who is registered for a Masters or Ph.D. degree in an accredited Florida college or university, and is engaged in research or preparing a thesis dealing primarily with the natural history or systematics of mollusks.

Karl was an Honorary Life Member of the Astronaut Trail Shell Club, and who made many scientific and popular contributions to malacology.

Shell Museum For Puerto Rico

Story & Photos By Richard Goldberg

On a recent visit to my good friends and C.O.A. members, Frank and Mary Robb in Puerto Rico, I was informed that we would be taking a trip across the island to visit a shell museum in the town of Parguera. They told me that another C.O.A. member had set up a small museum devoted to shells in this fishing/resort town on the southwest corner of Puerto Rico. Miguel (Mike) Carlo had corresponded with Frank and Mary in the past, but they never met. Mike invited us to come see the "Shell Mound Museum."

The Shell Mound Museum in Parguera, Puerto Rico.

We were unable to confirm his invitation due to the short amount of time after receiving the letter, and because there is only one telephone in town, at the hotel. With preconceived notions of what we might expect, and fingers crossed that he would even be there, we packed up the car with some shelling gear and headed off for the 3½ hour drive diagonally across the island from Carolina to Parguera.

After arriving at Parguera and a few inquiries about where one might find Miguel Carlo to the local residents [Habla inglés?], we pulled up to a Spanish style two story building with "The Shell Mound Museum" on the first floor. To our dismay, no one was home! After looking around town, and a drive through some of the country area near town, we returned to Mike's place to find a well groomed man getting out of his car. Could this be Mike? He looked at us in the car and

Miguel "Mike" Carlo discusses some of the museum's exhibits.

immediately realized who we were. Do you think the car-load of shelling gear gave it away?

We spent the rest of the evening talking shells and learning more about Mike and his museum, over a dinner of local dishes.

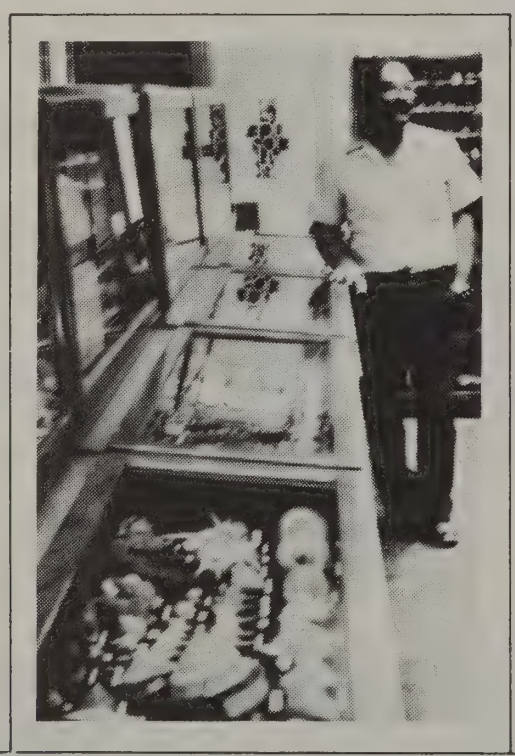
Mike is a native of Puerto Rico. His parents moved to New York City when he was three years old, and he spent the next 16 years growing up in the Bronx and on Long Island. Mike's parents decided to move back to Puerto Rico as he got older. His mother said, "Puerto Rico is the place I really love." Mike now works for the U.S. Postal Service. He is very interested in the natural history of the island. Mike is also considered an expert on the archeology of Puerto Rico, and has been a

An outstanding display of Strombus gallus Linné, 1758, includes color series and weird, freak specimens.

(Con't on Page 4)

Museum. . .Con't from Page 3

consultant on many research projects. He used to find middens or piles of shells in his field work, and became curious about the genesis of these shells. This is also where he derived the name for his museum, "The Shell Mound." His evolution into an avid shell collector grew slowly but surely -- but he had a dream. Mike wanted to build a museum to bring culture and an interest in the natural history of the island to Parguera and the surrounding towns. After purchase of his present home, Mike proceeded to convert the downstairs into his long awaited museum. Over the years, even before the museum, he built up an extensive local collection with many super rarities, as well as a vast array of the more common species. All are spectacular. He also amassed an enviable worldwide collection through trading. All specimens are labeled and exhibited in glass-top cases. Also on display are some archeological artifacts and old Puerto Rican postal notes.



Four cases of local Puerto Rican shells are exhibited in the museum.

Mike has run into many road blocks in developing the museum. Local government has not looked favorably on his project, and has done nothing to help promote his cause. Lack of local interest has also slowed the museum's growth to some extent, but has not detered Mike one bit. He puts all of his spare time away from the Post Office, to promote, expand and add specimens to the museum. Mike's hard work and devotion to his museum are evident throughout the museum. The exhibits of shells have a history which Mike will impart to you as you admire each and every shell. It is not unusual to see a growth or color series, freaks and variations of many local species.

Mike has the museum open only a couple of days per week due to his Postal position, and time spent shell collecting. Mike's enthusiasm for shells and shell collecting will rub off on even the most border-line conchologist.

Our short stay was a real pleasant experience, and Mike and his parents were gracious hosts. The C.O.A. should be proud to have Miguel Carlo as a member in its growing ranks.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Have you renewed your membership with the C.O.A. for 1981? If not, this will be your last issue -- so send your dues to Mr. Clair Stahl, Treasurer, at 3235 N.E. 61st St., Portland, OR, 97213. Dues are *$5.00/Individual Membership; $7.00/Family Membership; and an additional $5.00 overseas mailing fee.*

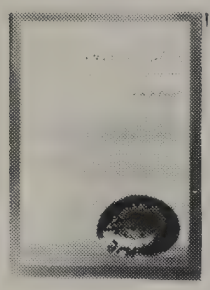
Send all address changes to Mr. Clair Stahl at the above address. This will quicken the change of your address card. Other membership-related correspondence should be sent to Mrs. Phyllis Pipher, Membership Chairman, 1116 N St., Tekamah, NE, 68061. All Bulletin correspondence should be sent to Richard Goldberg, Editor, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, N.Y., 11365.

Have you taken a shelling trip recently? Any unusual shell-related discoveries? Why not send a short (or long) article to be published in the Bulletin. Photographs can be submitted in any format (prints, slides) and will be returned after reproduced for publication. Let's hear from you soon!

DEADLINE for submission of articles and materials for the BULLETIN is the 15th of the preceding month of the issue [March, June, September & December].

SHELLS IN PRINT

By Richard Goldberg



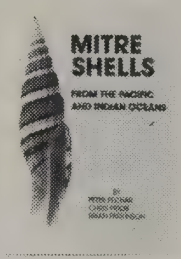
NEW ZEALAND MOLLUSCA - MARINE, LAND & FRESHWATER SHELLS by A.W.B. Powell, published by William Collins Publishers, has been recently distributed in this country by various book dealers. This important work covers the entirety of known molluscan species of New Zealand up to the time of its publication in 1979. The book is no less than outstanding, and can be compared to the scope covered in works by Abbott, Keen and Kay in the geographical areas of their concentration. Powell's book follows in the footsteps of the classic "Manual of the New Zealand Mollusca," by Henry Suter, published almost 70 years earlier. He used Suter's work as a basis for the present volume, plus his life-time of work with the New Zealand molluscan fauna. Powell is a most prolific author, with hundreds of articles and monographs on the local mollusks, dating back as far as 1924.

This 500 page volume covers 2245 species and subspecies, and illustrates with photographs and high quality line drawings approximately 70% of the species. There are 16 color plates and an additional 66 black & white plates. Interspersed throughout the book are an additional 120 text figures.

The text is comprehensive, with full nomenclature, locality data(most cases the type locality, and habitat information), a short but complete description of the species, and a bibliographic reference for each species, which makes this book a most useful reference for anyone specializing in New Zealand mollusks.

A first for this book are illustrations and color photographs of the land shells, not pictured in any recent books. The same holds true for the freshwater species. This is where this book is a departure from other books dealing with geographical areas. Powell has covered not only the marine species, but all of the known land and freshwater species. Another very useful feature of this book is a Geographical Aid, similar to that in Keen,1972.

NEW ZEALAND MOLLUSCA is no doubt the last word on this area, and a must for the professional or collector who deals with the molluscan fauna of New Zealand. The suggested retail price of the book is $70.00, but U.S. book dealers have offered it at a slight discount. Even though the price is considered high, it will surely be the standard reference for many years to come. A worthy investment at that.



MITRE SHELLS FROM THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS, by Peter Pechar, Chris Prior, and Brian Parkinson made its appearance last year with many favorable comments. The hardcovered volume has 56 color plates covering a good majority of the Indo-Pacific species. The authors say they have tried to do photographic justice to the family. They have done a superb job in their goal. 270 species of *Mitridae* and *Costellaridae* are illustrated in 680 individual shells [showing variation of many species]. Taxonomy of the species follows work done by Walter O. Cernohorsky with the Mitres.

The captions for each plate are on the opposite page, which makes for easy referencing. Included with the latin names are the locality for the illustrated specimen, its size, and in many cases the habitat it was found. No mention to its availability is given, e.g. common to rare.

One drawback to the text portion (if it could be considered that) is the lack of a general range of the species, and other comments pertinent to the shells. I found the need to reference some other works covering Mitres such as Indo-Pacific Mollusca on Mitres by Cernohorsky and other books dealing with geographical areas. The authors explanation for omitting distribution and availability comments in the text portion is that they were trying to keep the book from becoming outdated, and a very valid point. I do find that I will turn to this book first when in doubt about an identification. The logical arrangement of species on the plates make it easy to find similar looking shells in close proximity.

(Con't on Page 11)

Speaking of. . .Con't from Page 1

Before Dr. Kosuge and I take a firm stance as to *it is* or *it isn't* a species, let me digress from the main topic of this article to interject a few of my feelings about shells in general. As shell collectors, we have an insatiable appetite for *the truth*. We want definitive answers about the names of shells. We want to be certain that the shell in our collection named *Conus x*, really is *Conus x*, and not *Conus y*. We want absolute criteria that can be used to determine what is *Conus x* and what is *Conus y*. We look to the science of malacology and taxonomy to give use these answers. Unfortunately, they are not forth coming, nor should they be. I firmly believe when we are dealing with a concept like speciation, we cannot deal in absolutes. Speciation is an ongoing process -- it is not a frozen moment in time. In a geological time frame, what is here *today*, may not have existed in its present form *yesterday*, and may not exist at all, or at least in a different form *tomorrow*.

A quotation from page two of Radwin and D'Attilio's "Murex Shells of the World" says, "The biological validity of individual genera or species cannot be proved. Nor can any classification of a natural group be wholly satisfactory..." When I first began in this game -- a lifetime ago it seems -- the above statement would have completely shocked me. Back then I had no problem in determining what was or was not a species. All I had to do was reference any of the several books at hand. As my collection and library grew, I found to my horror that various authors and knowledgeable people I dealt with did not always agree with one another as to exactly what *Conus x* is, and how close it could come to *Conus y* and still be considered separate from it. The clearly defined answers I had in black and white in the past, all merged into a uniform grey. Today, I am more content to deemphasize the importance of names, and put more emphasis on the relationship to its environment, its physical description, and its similarities and differences to other like shells. Dr. William Emerson of the American Museum of Natural History once summed it up perfectly, while addressing the New York Shell Club by saying, "the name of a shell is its least important attribute, since it is the one thing that is apt to be changed."

How often have you asked, "Is this a valid species?" When we ask this question, we again want to know is it *x* or is it *y*. In truth, it is often almost impossible to tell. Sure I can say that "yes," *Conus x* is validly described as a species -- *i.e.* the description meets the legal requirements of the I.C.Z.N. [International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature], but to me it looks like *Conus y*. A valid description of a species does not necessarily mean that it is a separate biological entity. It is you who must ultimately decide -- or not decide at all and remain open-minded and continue to learn.

Hence, it really makes no difference at all that I consider Kosuge's validly described *Conus vicdani* a form of *Conus moluccensis*. We each, in our own way, are perhaps saying the same thing.

Another very interesting and different form of *Conus moluccensis* exists in the Marquesas Islands. It was also described as a species in the "Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology," as *Conus marielae* Rehder & Wilson, 1975. This form is shaped very much like the first three forms discussed in the previous article, but has a somewhat more acute spire angle and more sharply defined spines at the shoulder. The most interesting feature of this shell, and the one which I consider the most significant difference between *Conus marielae* and all other forms of *Conus moluccensis* is the sculpture of its body whorl. It consists of broad, flat ribs encircling the entire body whorl. Between these ribs are depressed areas completely pockmarked by tiny pits. Two good color photographs of *C. marielae* can be found on page 440 of Walls' "Cone Shells," and an excellent photograph of the holotype (with a close-up detail of the sculpture of the body whorl) can be seen in Sally Kaicher's "Card Pack on the *Conidae*," card #1349.

This form is apparently endemic to the Marquesas Islands. I have recently heard of several specimens of *Conus marielae* being offered from the Philip-

(Con't on Page 7)

Speaking of. . .Con't from Page 6

pines, but I suspect that this is a pot-shot at hanging a name on the *Conus vicdani* form which is also heavily ribbed.

The colors reported of *C. marielae* fall well within the range of colors seen in the *C. moluccensis* complex. The two dark bands encircling the body whorl are also present.

Walls on page 694 of his "Cone Shells," compares *C. marielae* to Philippine specimens of *Conus proximus* Sowerby II, 1859. He says (of *C. marielae*), "I really can see no way to distinguish it from some Philippine *C. proximus* of the same color, shape and sculpture. It is probably not distinct even at the subspecific level." He supports his argument further by saying, "*C. moluccensis* differs in larger size, constricted outer lip, constriction at the shoulder, often heavy granulose basal ridges, and constriction at the shoulder level." This is fine until one compares his plates of *C. marielae*, with his plates of *C. moluccensis* and *C. proximus*. The similarity to *C. moluccensis* is almost immediately evident -- the connection to *C. proximus* I find impossible to make.

In all fairness, I must point out that Walls does not illustrate a specimen of a Philippine *C. proximus*. One must wonder if what he has seen maybe yet another variation of *C. moluccensis* and not the similar but rather distinct *C. proximus*!

YOU'RE INVITED!

When visiting Los Angeles, the PACIFIC SHELL CLUB invites you to attend their meetings. They meet the first Sunday, October through June (except on Holidays), at 1:30 P.M., at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, 900 Exposition Blvd. The club meets in the Lounge of the museum.

The club publishes "Las Conchas," their Newsletter and meeting notice nine times a year. For further information, you can write, Mrs. Carmen Gutierrez, Editor; 8631 Bluford Ave., Whittier, CA, 90602.

A Rare Mexican Colubraria

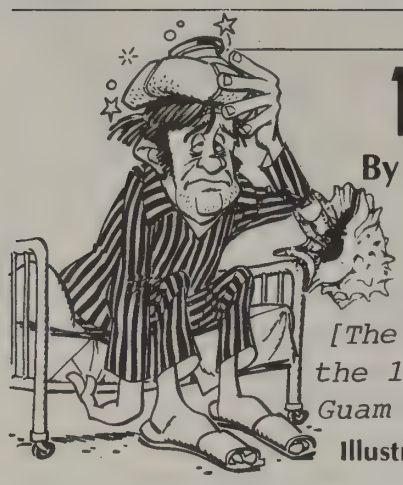
The illustrated shell is a speimen of the rare *Colubraria procera* (Sowerby, 1832). It was collected by C.O.A. member Francisco "Pancho" Morales off Acapulco, Mexico, in February 1972. Pancho found the shell while scuba diving at a depth of 10 feet, partially buried in sand, almost under a rock, at mid-day.

Pancho says that the specimen is possibly the largest known specimen of the species. He will be submitting the data to Bob Wagner, keeper of the records of largest known specimens. The specimen measures 85mm in length.

Colubraria procera (Sowerby, 1832), taken off Acapulco, Mexico. Photograph by Bob Evans.

In "Seashells of Tropical West America," Keen writes, "Named as a *Columbella* and thought to be from Panama, the immature type specimen, which was unillustrated, lay forgotten in the British Museum collection for over a century. In 1967 a living specimen - fortunately an adult - was taken by a California collector, Lawrence Thomas, who had found it while diving in southern Mexico. It matched a photograph of Sowerby's type then available. Thus, identification of the species could be made, and it could be assigned to its proper genus, *Colubraria*."

The largest recorded specimen of this species is listed in Wagner and Abbott's "Standard Catalog of Shells," and was collected by Lawrence Thomas in 1969, and measures 79.3mm in length. The only locality data is W.Mexico.



Roth's Laws Regarding Shelling

By Captain Alex Roth, Guam

[The following appeared in the 1980 edition of the Guam Shell Show Bulletin]

Illustration Added For This Reprinting

1. If you go shelling with a group, everyone else's shells will be both larger and rarer than yours. The corollary to the above; In a group, you will be the only one not to find anything.

2. Children always find numerous shells where no adult has ever found one. (To counter this grim tendency on the part of the younger generation, don't take children to your favorite spots.)

3. Something will always happen to prevent you from going shelling on the lowest tide of the year. The corollary to the above; Never make plans to go shelling on your vacation or day off from work. Just ignore the reefs and beaches as if they weren't there. Just casually or offhandedly happen to stop your car near the water and sidle down onto the sands.

4. The record-sized, perfect shell that you either lost or dropped while shelling always ends up in your biggest competitor's collection.

5. The best shells are always seen just beyond your reach.

6. The largest Golden cowries are always guarded by the largest (and most irritable) moray eels.

7. Five minutes before leaving on that perfect shelling expedition, that outing that comes once in a life-time, your wife (housemaid, mistress, girl-friend?) threw out your shelling gloves, shoes, and that empty clorox bottle that you've been saving for the last three months. Corollary to the above; Never tell your wife (housemaid, mistress, girl-friend?) which are your old shelling shoes. Let her try and guess. (Wear them to the Disco some evening just to confuse her...)

8. Whenever you take off a shoe in the water to shake out a pebble, and or pieces of empty beer cans, is when you will always lose your balance and step on a sea urchin.

9. Always wear a hat when reef walking; your head is invariably the likeliest target for the nearest sea gull.

10. To prevent pollution of the environment, don't drink beer on a shelling expedition.

11. Rules for cleaning shells:

a]There's a right way, a wrong way, and your way.

b]The smells of rotting shells are always riper coming from your neighbour's yard than in your own.

c]Only rare shells are dropped, chipped or cracked while cleaning.

d]Never accept help from your wife (housemaid, mistress, girl-friend?) in the cleaning of shells; she will always throw out with the garbage your most prized find.

e]There is always an easier way to clean shells than the way you have been doing for the past umpteen years; everyone knows that.

12. At a Shell Fair:

a]Your exhibit will be the only one with the labels under the wrong shells.

b]If there is the remotest possibility of someone bumping your exhibit just after you have set it up, someone will.

c]Never request help in identifying a shell; you will get numerous positive identifications -- all different.

13. When cleaning shells -- there's always an easier way to do it.

14. When trying to identify a shell, its picture and description will always be in the last book available.

15. When exchanging shells, you will always receive worse shells than you send. Corollary to the above; Stop sending other people your rejects, as you ultimately receive them back from someone else.

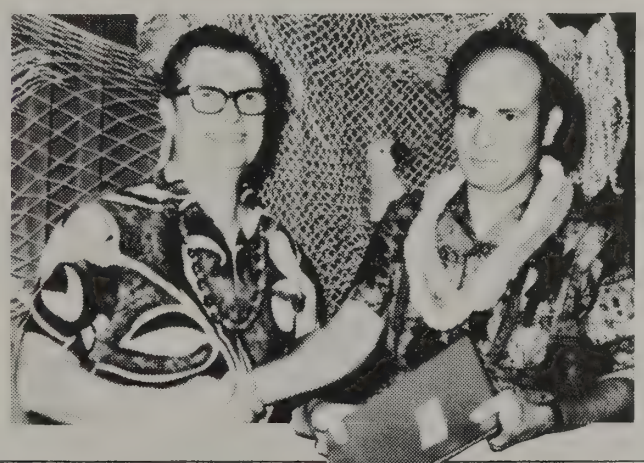
16. The day after you pay a fortune for a rare shell, the market will be flooded with that same shell at one-tenth the price you paid. Corollary to the above; The day after you bought a shell through a dealer, you will receive another advertisement offering the same shell for half the price you paid. Corollary to the corollary; Always buy your shells from the second advertisement you receive.

C.O.A. "Grand Trophy" 1981
(And Participating Shows)

[The 1981 Shell Show season is in full swing. These clubs participating in the C.O.A. Awards program have reported on their shows.]

THE ASTRONAUT TRAIL SHELL CLUB held its THIRD ANNUAL SHELL SHOW on January 16-18 at the Kiwanis Island Auditorium, Merritt Island, Florida. This was the largest show the club has ever had, with 436 feet of displays in 74 exhibits.

The judges for the show were Dr. Harry Lee of Jacksonville, FL.; Jerome Bijur of Naples, FL.; and Les Easland of Orlando, FL. During the entire run of the show, shell talks and demonstrations were held in a side room. The room held 40 people and there was *standing room only* for each of the presentations. Some of the talks included: "Miniatures," "What is a Shell," "Shelling in Hawaii," "Living Mollusks,"Shellcraft Ideas," and many, many more.



Jim Cordy[right] receives the winner's, "Gift Certificates Booklet" from C.O.A. Awards Program Chairman, Dr. R. Tucker Abbott at the 1981 Astronaut Trail Shell Show Judge's Banquet. The theme was "Hawaiian" and Hawaiian buffet was served and authentic dances were performed. A slide program on shelling in Hawaii was presented by Dr. Lee. 91 guests were present for the event.

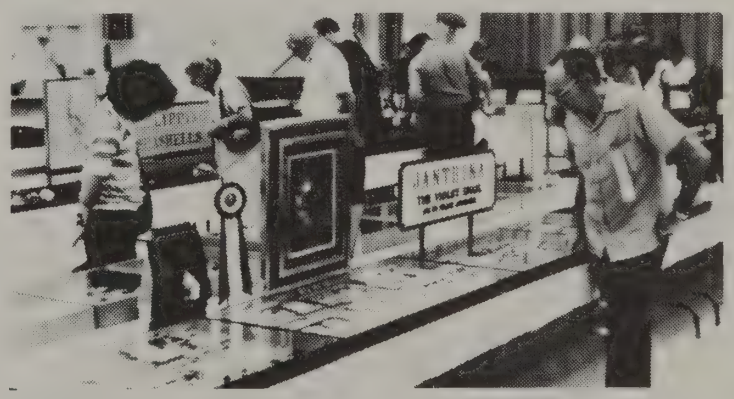
The C.O.A. Grand Trophy was won by Bobbi, Denise and Jim Cordy for their family effort entitled, "Shell Authors -- Who Are They?" The 30 foot display was conceived some 12 months prior to the first showing of the exhibit. It included a brief biography of *Linné, Lamarck, Gmelin, Reeve, Sowerby III, Swainson, and Dall*. The biography of each was recorded on a poster which included basic information on the author such as their education and what they contributed to the science of malacology. 15 cases of shells rounded out the exhibit, two for each author with the exception of *Linné*, who had three. The shells were those authored by the seven authors. Many of the shells were self-collected.

Five of the seven posters were sketched by Denise, and were done as they appeared in encyclopedias and other reference books. Bobbi constructed the posters and Jim arranged the display cases; a real family effort.

Jim says many hours of research were spent in finding information on the seven authors. Information on some were more readily available than others. The Cordy family exhibit also won the DuPont Trophy at the 1980 Central Florida Shell Show.

Winner of the C.O.A. Grand Trophy at the 17th ANNUAL BROWARD SHELL SHOW was Neil Hepler with his exhibit entitled "*Janthina* - The Violet Snail and Its Pelagic Associates." Neil entered his exhibit in the Educational category, where it also won a Blue Ribbon.

The exhibit consisted of five cases with a display length of 14 feet. Emphasis in the display was on the Oviviporus and Viviporus recognized species of the genus, and included information on the history, distribution, propogation, eggs, egg capsules, color, food, feeding, pred-



Neil Hepler's C.O.A. Grand Trophy winning exhibit, "Janthina - The Violet Snail and its Pelagic Associates," at the Broward Shell Show. Photo by William McGee.

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Grand Trophy. . .Con't from Page 9

ators, survival, bubble float, and pelagic associates.

Neil's exhibit also won Blue Ribbons in the Educational Categories at the GREATER MIAMI, PALM BEACH and SANIBEL Shell Shows this year, along with other special honors. He is also a past recipient of a C.O.A. Grand Trophy in 1979 for his highly praised exhibit, "The Chambered Nautilus," which now resides at the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

Neil said in reference to his gaining interest in shell collecting, "The three steps that got me into the *mess* I am in today is a follows -- first I was a beachcomber; then advanced to a collector; and then I became a fanatic of which I am to this day!" He started collecting 25 years ago after moving from Pennsylvania, and said, "I was out of work and would often walk the beach at Pompano, and became intrigued with the beautiful pieces of colored shells and the sculpturing, which I found out later was the columella of a gastropod." Over the past 17 years, Neil has won 21 major awards at shell shows! He says he will continue to work on educational exhibits for shell shows, but would like to try his hand at doing a book on the Chambered Nautilus, one of his main areas of interest.

Neil feels that his greatest reward would be to know that through his efforts, he might motivate some young people to go into marine biology and oceanography. Finally, Neil says that his three loves are first - his wife; second - Nautilus; and third - Poison Cones. Right On Neil!

THE GREATER MIAMI SHELL CLUB held its NINETEENTH SHELL SHOW on January 29-February 1st, at Planet Ocean, Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, Florida. Judges for the show included Dr. Gilbert L. Voss, Professor of Biological Oceanography and Curator of Marine Invertebrates, Rosenthiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami; Dr. Harry G. Lee, past president of the Jacksonville Shell Club; and Anne Joffe, of Sanibel Island judged the shell art. There were 24 exhibitors in the scientific division, entering 37 exhibits, with a total of 356 feet of display cases. There were 9 entries in the shell art

division. Edward B. Sarkin won the C.O.A. Grand Trophy for his exhibit, "Family *Terebridae*." Edward is current president of the Greater Miami Shell Club.

Grand Trophy winner at the PALM BEACH COUNTY SHELL CLUB Shell Show, was Phyllis Diegel, for her exhibit "Tusk Shells - Class *Scaphopoda* - Genus *Dentalium*." The show was held on February 13-15th at the Colonades Beach Hotel, Singer Island, Florida. The judges were Bill Lyons, Bob Morrison, and Gary Magnotte.

Phyllis' exhibit had four cases, with 10 feet of drawings showing the animal, the apical slits, and how to identify different species. Sixty species and 110 shells of world wide tusk shells were represented. Information on feeding, function and a simulation of the habitat with sand and shells were included. Indian artifacts made from tusk shells with a history of shell money rounded out her exhibit. The exhibit also won a blue ribbon in the "One Genus" category at the PALM BEACH show.

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CONCHOLOGISTS SOCIETY held its 14th ANNUAL SHELL SHOW at the Fort Myers Exhibition Hall on January 9-11. The club reports that the show was a success in all respects, and was attended by approximately 2500 people. There were 37 separate exhibits entered in the scientific divisions, totalling 441 linear feet of exhibits.

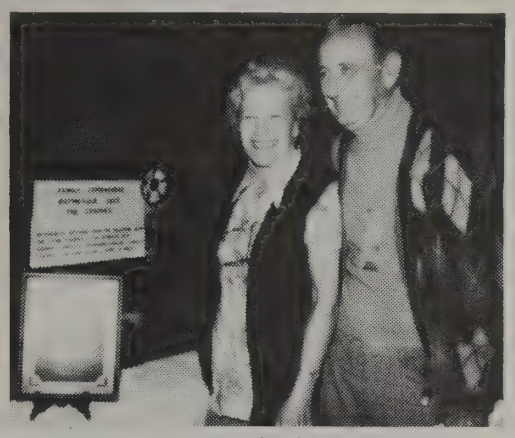
The judges of the scientific divisions were three of the most famous names in malacology and conchology: Dr. R. Tucker Abbott and Mr. and Mrs. Robert J.L. Wagner. Dr. Abbott's wife Cecelia,

(Con't on Page 11)

Grand Trophy. . .Con't from Page 10

Mrs. Sue Stephens and Mrs. Lucia King were judges in the artisitic division.

The "One Family" category in the division of "World-wide Marine Shells" had the largest exhibits in the show, with four entries totalling over 112 feet. In this category, Mary and Bart Zanarini won the C.O.A. Grand Trophy for their exhibit "Family *Cypraeidae* Rafinesque, 1815 -- THE COWRIES." The display encompassed 15 cases of cowries and one live specimen of *Cypraea zebra* in an aquarium. The cases were lined with black felt, and mirrors placed to show the base of the shells. Some of the rare *Cypraea* included *valentia*, *guttata*, *aurantium*, *rosselli*, *marginata*, *surinamensis*, *annettae aequinoctialis*, and others. The Zanarini's exhibit had 39½ feet of cowries. Photographs and maps depicting species and distribution rounded out the exhibit.



Mary & Bart Zanarini won the C.O.A. Award at the Southwest Florida Show.

Mary and Bart started shelling seriously six years ago. Most of their shelling was confined to the west coast of Florida. After joining the SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CONCHOLOGISTS SOCIETY they began to realize the shells they were collecting were from living animals. With more advanced collectors in the club, they expanded their shelling horizons to the Florida Keys and South Bimini, Bahamas. Their interests have moved from Sea Life to *Cypraea* and *Murex*.

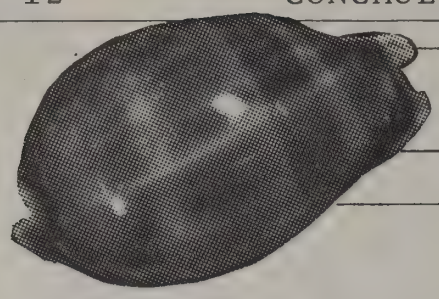
The 34th ANNUAL ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW sponsored by the ST. PETERSBURG SHELL CLUB was held February 26 through March 1, at the National Guard Armory, in St. Petersburg, Florida. 69 exhibits were entered -- 53 were shell exhibits and 16 shell art and shell craft. The judges for the show included Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, President of American Malacologists, Inc.; Leonard C. Hill, Marine Biologist at the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration, Miami; William G. Lyons, Supervisor of Invertebrate Studies, Florida Department of Natural Resources Marine Laboratory, St. Petersburg; and Cecelia Abbott, of Melbourne, Florida judged the shell art and shell craft.

Mrs. Jo Kotora, of St. Petersburg, won the C.O.A. Grand Trophy for her exhibit entitled, "Artistic Creations by a Mollusk." The exhibit included an array of rare world wide shells. It also won Blue Ribbons(1st Prize) in the World Wide and Most Beautiful Categories. The display consisted of three cases of world wide shells; one featuring shapes and forms by a mollusk; a second case featured designs and patterns by a mollusk; and a third featured colors by a mollusk. Mrs. Kotora also won another major award for her exhibit on "A Study of *Haliotis*," the Smithsonian Institute Award at the same show. Mrs. Kotora said that according to Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, this was to his knowledge, the first time that two major awards went to the same person at one shell show.

The Grand Trophy winner at the St. Petersburg Shell Show was Mrs. Jo' Kotora with, "Artistic Creations by a Mollusk."

Shells In. . .Con't from Page 5

I'm sure those who have had access to MITRE SHELLS FROM THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS will agree that it has filled a needed void for the conchologist. The suggested retail selling price is approximately $20.00.



CYPIN' IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

By Tom Shepherd, Key West, Fl.

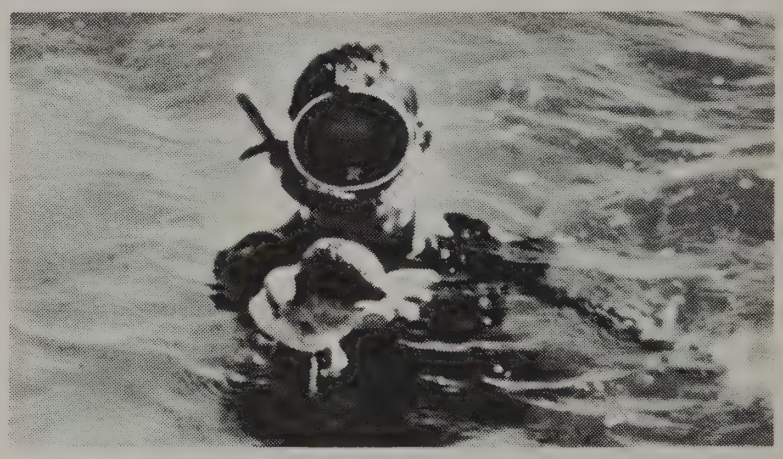
In late August 1980, a few weeks after the C.O.A. Convention, Raymond Pease and myself did some *Cypraea* hunting in the waters off Key West, which proved to be very good.

The water visibility for Key West was lousy, being ten feet or less. Ray took me to his "*zebra* patch," which is in fairly shallow water. We found both *Cypraea cervus* and *C. zebra* under rocks in this area. I found one deformed *C. zebra* and what could be considered a dwarf adult *C. cervus* (2 3/8" in length). They were in about three feet of water, and 30 to 40 feet apart. The *C. cervus* is the smallest I have ever found. These two shells had an oily sheen unlike the normal high gloss finish. The *C. zebra's* oily sheen can be attributed to it being slightly sub-adult, showing some of the protoconch, and also being deformed. The mantle of the animal probably did not function properly after being damaged.

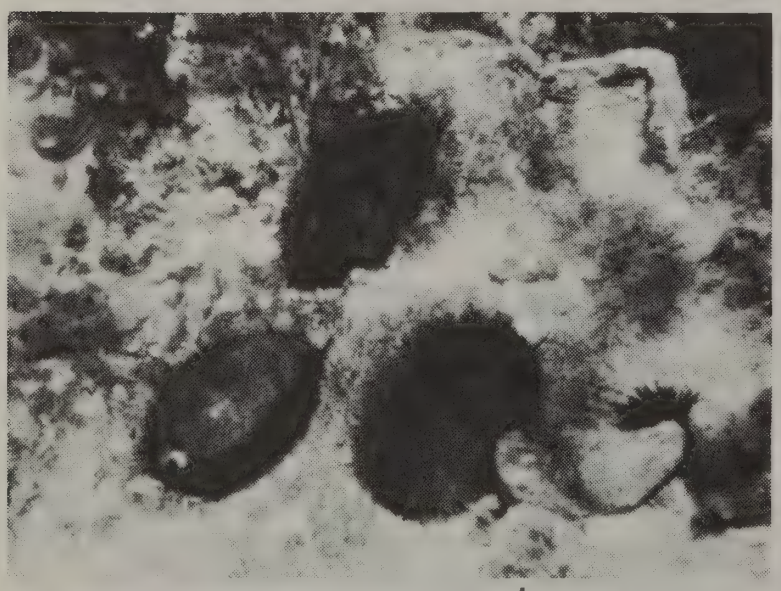
The same day we found four or five *Cypraea* on eggs which I photographed and naturally left for later harvesting. The *C. zebra* eggs were yellow and the *cervus* eggs were a pinkish brown color. In October I was able to observe the eggs of *Cypraea cinerea* at Sand Key, which were as white as snow.

In January of this year the weather was cold and windy, which put a damper on my *Cypraea* hunting. The cold weather cause a fair amount of fish to be killed in the shallows -- mostly barracuda and snapper. I am hoping that it did not affect the shelling. Being dedicated, I went out to Sand Key on January 16th, in full wet suit! The visibility was about three feet and we were only able to take an hour of the cold. I did manage to find three *Conus regius*, two *Cypraea cinerea*, and a handful of *Cyphoma gibbosum* on sea fans. The warmer weather should bring some more good *Cypraea* hunting in the Florida Keys.

Author Tom Shepherd checks out the waters while boating out to the collecting areas off Key West. Photo by Richard Goldberg.



Raymond Pease surfaces with a large Cypraea cervus Linne, 1771. Photograph by Richard Goldberg.



Three Cypraea cervus Linné, 1771, in four feet of water off Key West. One has its mantle partially retracted. Photograph by Tom Shepherd.

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists will be held on June 23-26, 1981, at the San Diego State University. For more information write: Kay Webb, Treasurer; 501 Anita St. #186; Chula Vista, CA., 92011.

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA BULLETIN
NUMBER 24

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NEXT STOP. . . SAN FRANCISCO

Preview of the 1981 C.O.A. Convention

On September 2nd through 5th, 1981, the Ninth Annual Convention of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA will convene in San Francisco, California. The four day shelling event is being sponsored this year by the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MALACOZOOLOGICAL CLUB. The convention sight will be the Miyako Hotel at the Japanese Cultural Center, on Post Street.

This year's convention will be no less exciting than those in the past. A full schedule of slide presentations by noted shelling authorities and collectors will be given throughout the fours days. These are not heavily scientific talks, but designed for the shell collector. Talks on collecting trips and speaker's favorite families of shells or areas of specialty are just some of the topics to be presented.

Once again this year, the Shell Book Give-Away with encourage prompt attendance at the sessions. Publishers of shells books are donating many shell and shell-related books to be on display in the convention room for your browsing, and during the program breaks will be given out to those who's registration numbers are selected from a drum. Many choice shell books have been donated in the past.

Even though shell collecting has been banned in California, two field trips have been planned. The first will be to Marine World/Africa-U.S.A. where there is an outstanding shell collection, along with a wild animal and water show. An alternate field trip will be a visit to the California Academy of Sciences at Golden Gate Park, which includes a variety of natural science exhibits, a world famous aquarium, and a large shell and fossil collection.

A popular event at the conventions is the "Dealer's Bourse," where shell dealers from around the country will sell shells during two sessions. You will have an opportunity to browse, buy, and meet your favorite shell dealers. No where will you have the chance to see so many specimen shells for sale in one place at one time.

The Annual Auction of Donated Shells will be held on Friday evening of the convention. Donations from dealers and collectors from around the world are arriving. You will have the chance to inspect the material to be auctioned off before the auction starts. An auction list will be available at the convention, and if you want your donation

(Con't on Page 4)

CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC.

A Collective Devotion To Advancing- Conchology.

In 1972, a group of shell collectors saw the need for a national organization devoted to the interests of shell collectors. Thus, CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC. was formed -- for amateur collectors interested in the beauty of shells, their scientific aspects and the collecting and preservation of mollusks. The membership includes novices, as well as advanced collectors, scientists and shell dealers from around the country and world. An annual convention is held each year in a different part of the country.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: R. Wayne Stevens; 1835 N.E. 16th Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97212
VICE-PRES.: Caroline Harnack, 32 Dondi Road, Key West, Florida, 33040
SECRETARY: Mary Snediker, 2562 Ramona Street, East Meadow, New York, 11554
TREASURER: Clair Stahl, 3235 N.E. 61st Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97213

BULLETIN STAFF

EDITOR: Richard Goldberg

ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER: Marc Goldberg

The BULLETIN is an official publication of the CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA, INC., published quarterly in March, June, September and December. We invite you to submit any shell related items for inclusion in the BULLETIN. Address all BULLETIN correspondence to the EDITOR, 49-77 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York, 11365.

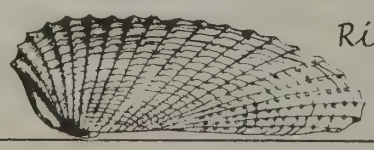
MEMBERSHIP DUES

*INDIVIDUAL(per year) $5.00; FAMILY(receives one Bulletin) $7.00; OVERSEAS(Air Mail Postage) $10.00; Send check or money order to the TREASURER(address above); ***Any other membership problems should be addressed to the MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON, Phyllis Pipher, 1116 'N' St., Tekamah, Nebraska, 68061.*

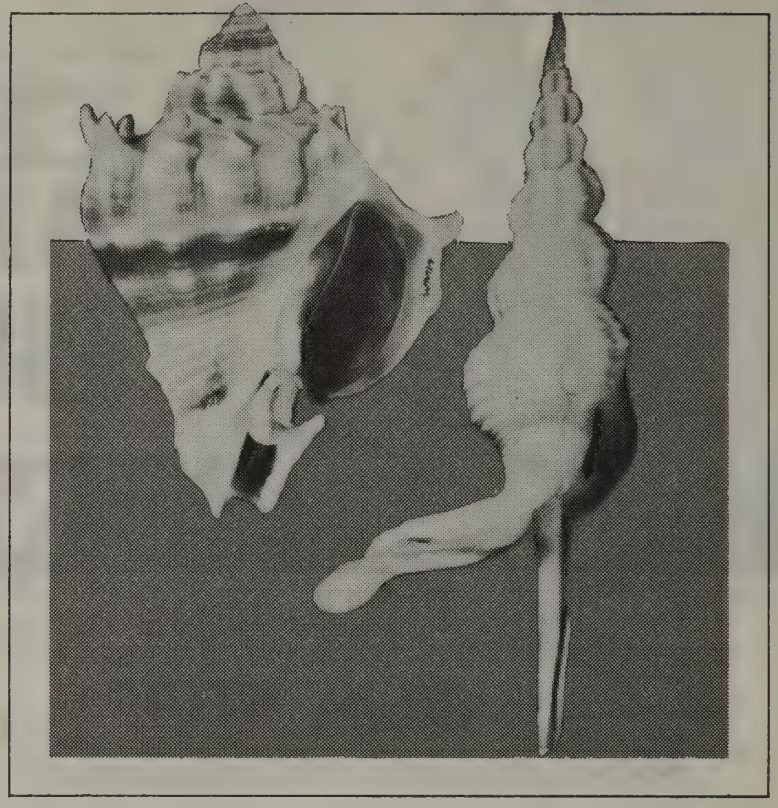
EDITORIAL

This issue marks the completion of two years that Marc and I have been publishing the BULLETIN. With the help of the C.O.A. executive board, we were able to upgrade the quality of the BULLETIN and look foward to continued growth in our publication and the organization as a whole. We would like to thank all of you who have supported our efforts in whatever way you have seen fit, and look foward to your continued input. I hope to see many of you at the convention. Have a happy summer of shelling activities!

Richie



Fabulous Freaks



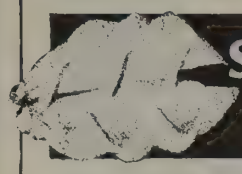
Shell collectors are always amazed when it comes to freak shells. Usually deformed through a damage to the shell or animal during its life, the mollusk repairs the shell it calls home, but showing the wounds of the accident. Each becomes a unique oddity of nature.

The left specimen is *Melongena corona* (Gmelin, 1791). It measures 58mm in length. It suffered two severe breaks on the body whorl -- after the second, its color and growth became totally distorted. This pinching effect closed off a good portion of its aperture and the animal was unable to withdraw totally into the shell. It was collected at Captiva Island, Florida in 1975.

The second specimen is *Fusinus colus* Linne, 1758. This is a real freaky specimen, with two siphonal canals. Here there is no apparent break in the shell, and might have been due to an injury to the animal itself. Occasionally this is seen with *Cypraea*, where a damage to the mantle of the mollusk causes a distortion of the shell. The specimen is from Cuddalore, India, and measure 91mm in length.

Do you have any freak specimens in your collection? Why not send us a photograph of it with a short write-up on the shell.

We look foward to seeing those "Fabulous Freaks."



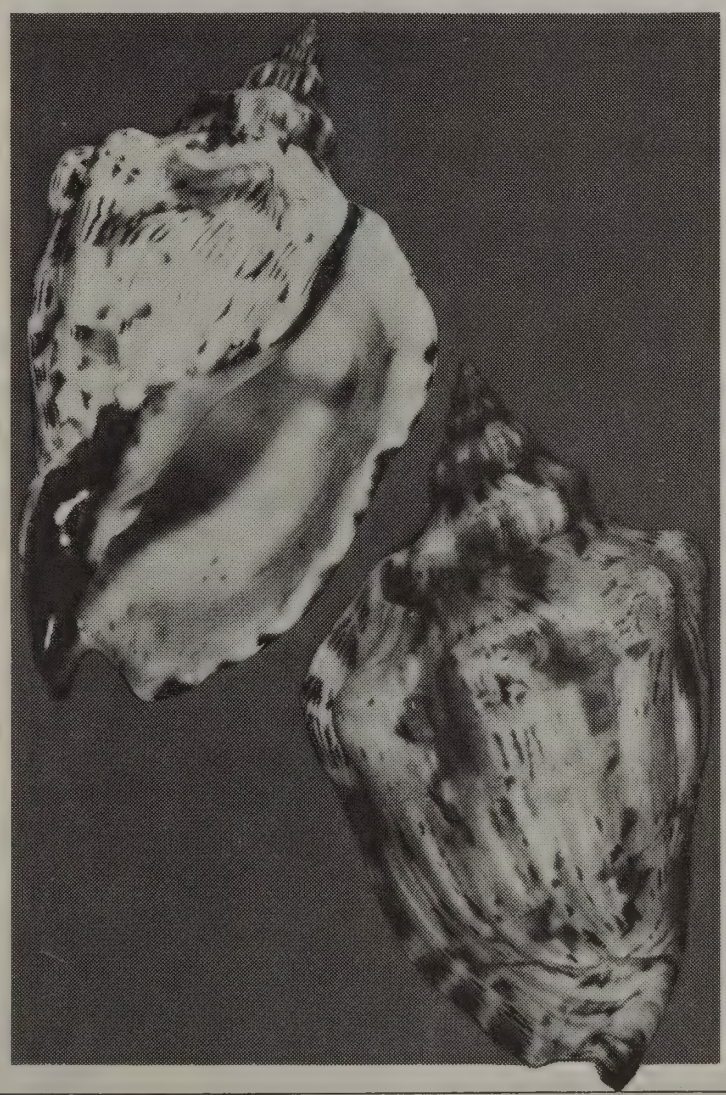
SPEAKING OF SHELLS

by Bob Janowsky

Those Fabulous Festilyria

One of the most interesting genera of the family *Volutidae* is the genus *Festilyria* Pilsbry and Olsson, 1954. This genus is represented in the recent fauna by only four species, all of which are only seldom seen. Three of the four species are found in deep water off the east African coast and the fourth is found off Oman and Somalia. Illustrated here are two exceptionally fine specimens of two of the most striking of these rare shells.

The specimen of *Festilyria festiva* (Lamarck, 1811) is the largest and most strikingly colored that I've seen. It measures 220.3mm in height and is 119.4mm wide at its shoulder. The lip is extremily thick, measuring 6.6mm in its thickness. This specimen was collected at Alula, Somalia which is on the Gulf of Aden, directly across the Gulf from Al Masirah Island, Oman. The latter is the only previously known reliable record for this species. Apart from its impressive size, the most striking feature of this specimen is its color. The overall color is soft ivory on which are found large irregular patches of bright orange. The callus, parietal shield and interior of the aperture are of a lighter golden/orange color. The fasciole and the posterior canal are dark brown/black and a dark line separates them from the parietal shield and callus. A well colored specimen is figured in "Living Volutes" by Weaver and DuPont on plate 22, figure D, but the color of the specimen illustrated here is far better. A specimen is figured in black and white on the dust cover of Maxwell Smith's 1942 work, "A Review of the Volutidae." On page 26 of this work Smith remarks that this species is "said to be one of the rarest Volutes" -- a statement that is still true nearly 30 years later. Several specimens have lately become available, but this shell is still one that little is known about.



Festilyria festiva (Lamarck, 1811) from Alula, Somalia. Height 220.3mm, Width 119.4mm -- in the collection of Waverley Harmon, New York City. Photo by Bob Janowsky.

Festilyria ponsonbyi (E.A. Smith, 1901) ex pisce from Durban, South Africa. Height 65mm -- in the collection of Fred R. Cannon, New York City. Photo by Bob Janowsky.

The second specimen illustrated here is a very brightly colored specimen of

(Con't on Page 8)

Convention. . .Con't from Page 1

to be included on the list they must arrive no later than August 15th. Donations should be sent to Phillip Clover, P.O. Box 83, Glen Ellen, California, 95442. Donators will be acknowledge on the auction list and in the C.O.A. Bulletin. Proceeds from the auction help fund C.O.A. activities such as the "Grand Trophy Award" given at over 20 shell shows around the country, and publication of the C.O.A. Bulletin. Please be generous.

The convention will conclude on Saturday evening with the Banquet. Dinner and entertainment, along with a very special guest speaker are scheduled. A Japanese and American menu will be available. The banquet is a great way to wind up four days of non-stop shell related activities.

Of course, a trip to San Francisco would not be complete without some time to sight-see the many famous attractions. Time will be afforded during the convention, and you might want to come a few days before or stay a few days later to take in the sights. Tourist brochures will be available at the registration desk for your convenience.

A special convention mailer has been sent to all C.O.A. members and contains Hotel and convention registration forms, and all other pertinent data. East coast member should check with the airlines early to take advantage of the reduced airfares to the west coast.

A tentative agenda for the convention has been scheduled as follows:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd -

10:00 am - 1:30 pm/ Registration

1:30 pm - 5:30 pm/ Opening announcements, and first group of talks.

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm/ Your choice of the many local restaurants for dinner.

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm/ "Ice-breaker" get acquainted Party at the hotel.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd -

9:30 am - 12 noon/ Morning session of slide presentations and book give-aways.

Afternoon/ Field Trip

7:30 pm - 10:00 pm/ Dealer's Bourse

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th -

9:30 am - 12 noon/ Slide presentations, book give-aways, possible shell displays.

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm/ Afternoon session.

7:30 pm- 10:30 pm/ Auction

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th -

9:30 am - 12 noon/ Morning session.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm/ Business meeting.

3:30 pm - 7:00 pm/ Dealer's Bourse.

7:30 pm - 10:00 pm/Cocktail reception and Banquet.

The Annual C.O.A. Convention is becoming the shelling highlight of the year. Come be part of the excitement, and meet collectors from around the country and world. For further information concerning the convention, or to receive the convention mailer [if per chance you did not receive yours] write to: Elmo W. Adams, General Convention Chairman, 747 Winchester Drive, Burlingame, California, 94010.

Register early, and we look foward to seeing you there!

A Worthy Cause

The Annual Auction of Donated Shells will be held on Friday evening, September 4, 1981, during the C.O.A. convention in San Francisco. In the past, shell dealers and collectors from around the world have donated specimens to the auction. This year is no different, and donations are coming in from around the world.

Would you like to help raise funds for the needs of the organization? Why not help make this C.O.A.'s best auction yet by donating some specimens. An auction catalog will be made up and donators will be acknowledged there, and also in the post-convention C.O.A. Bulletin.

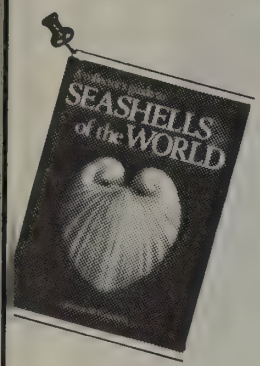
Why not come to the auction! Many choice shells will be up for bids. The auctions are exciting and loads of fun. Come be part of this event.

All donations will be received and catalogued by Phillip Clover, P.O. Box 83, Glen Ellen, California, 95442. For your donations to be included in the auction catalog, they must be received no later than August 15th.

See you there, and happy bidding!

SHELLS IN PRINT

By Richard Goldberg



A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO SEASHELLS OF THE WORLD by Jerome M. Eisenberg has recently been published by McGraw Hill Book Company. The book has 158 color plates covering over 2,600 species of marine gastropods and bivalves. Also included are Chitons, Tusk Shells and Cephalopods.

The species are arranged taxanomically and alphabetically within the genera. A number of rarely illustrated species in popular literature appear here. The more popular families are, of course, given more space, but families like *Pectinidae*, *Coralliophilidae* and *Naticidae* among others, are given more concentration than often seen in general identification works.

I find a few of the plates to be a bit off-color, but does not detract from the book. A number of identification mistakes are contained in this work, which I find out are due to the publisher's not wanting to incure the cost of galley changes. I'm sure the author or an advanced collector will publish an addendum article in one of the shell publications noting these corrections.

My first thought when the book became available was, "Oh no! Another shell book..." I am totally convinced that this is a shell book that belongs in the conchological library of the beginning and advanced collector alike. Eisenberg's COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO SEASHELLS... is a worthy investment at $24.95.

[Review by C.O.A. member Bruce Einsohn of New York City.]

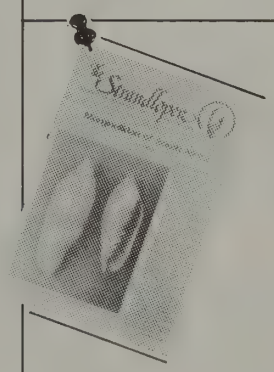
SHELL COLLECTING by Jerry Walls, was published this year through T.F.H. Publications. This slim 93 page volume appears to be designed to introduce several basic aspects of shell collecting to the begining (and perhaps more advanced)hobbyist.

Written in an informal and chatty style, the author of several well known identification guides comments on the different levels of collectors, various methods of obtaining shells, and on housing collections. The treatment is by no means exhaustive, but contains much common sense advice.

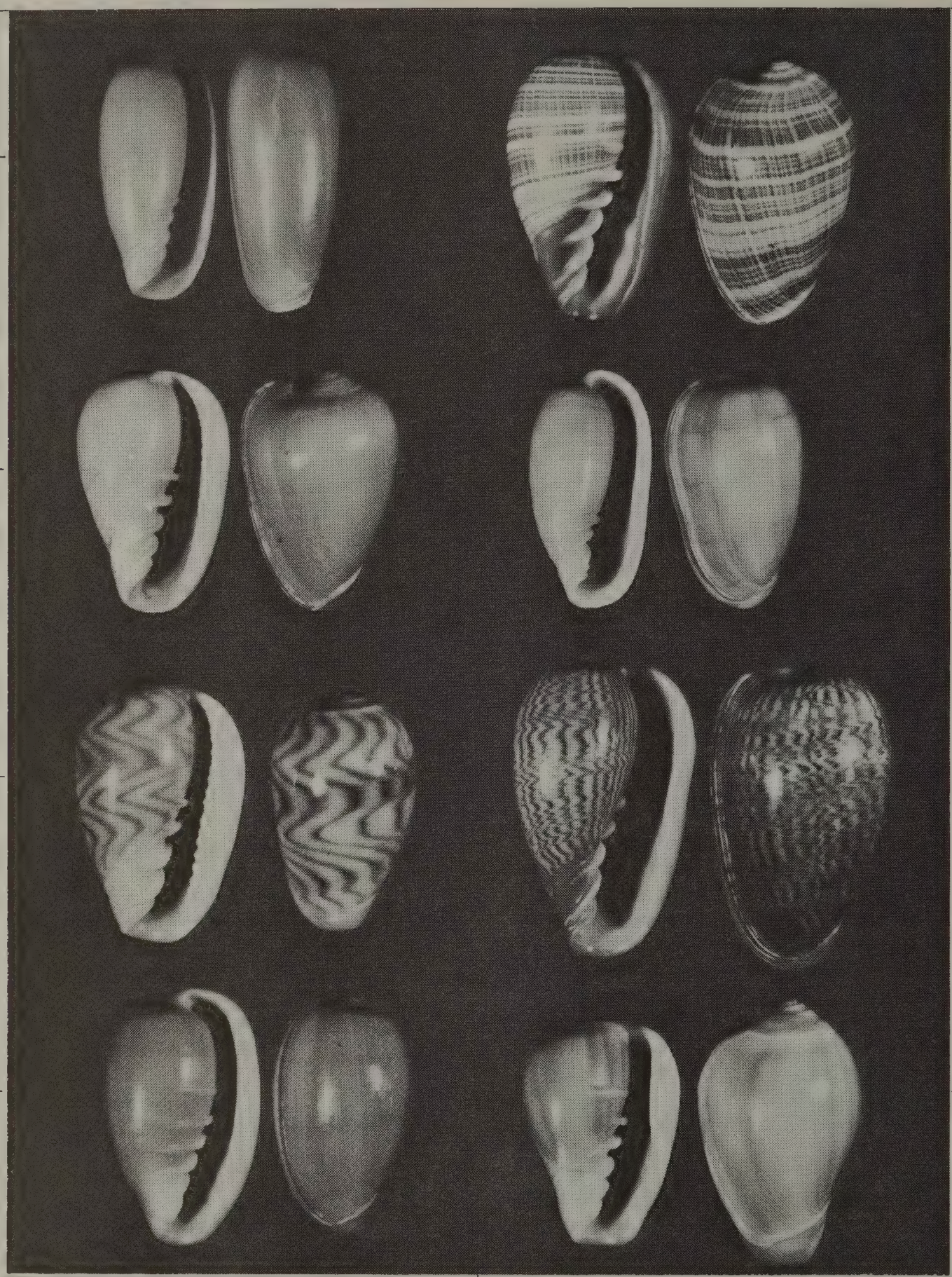
There is a chapter devoted to those shell groups which, in the opinion of the author, are the most popular with collectors. Included here is a brief mention of land shells; indicating renewed interest in this often ignored group. Being interested in the land mollusca, I was pleased to see a photograph of a dozen exotic land shells, seldom illustrated in the popular literature. Unfortunately, the shells are not identified. The text concludes with a discussion of the environmental consequences of shell collecting.

Although most books of this type pay lip service to the importance of gaining familiarity of the shell literature, Walls emphasizes this point in a chapter entitled "Reading is Fundemental." Here is to be found an informal survey of publications useful to the novice.

The book is profusely illustrated with photographs, many in color, and some of rare species. Many of the photographs are taken from other publications, but at a suggested retail price of $2.95, there is a tremendous amount of color for such an inexpensive book.



The April 1981 issue of THE STRANDLOPER, Bulletin of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa,devoted an entire issue to the *Marginellidae* of South Africa. Of particular interest to collectors are two color plates illustrating approximately 40 species, many showing various patterns. This work will be published in two parts, with the micro species being illustrated with line drawings in the next issue. A total of 86 species are covered in the text with a cross-reference to the plates. The article has a wealth of knowledge, and those interested in the article and membership to the Society, may write: P.O. Box 1200, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa.



Marginella of Southeast Asia - 1] M. dactylus Lamarck, 1822; 2] M. elegans Gmelin, 1791; 3] M. glauca Jousseaume, 1875; 4] M. quadrilineata Gaskoin, 1849; 5] M. scripta Hinds, 1844; 6] M. strigata Dillwyn, 1817; 7] M. tricincta Hinds, 1844; 8] M. ventricosa G. Fischer, 1807. All photos by P.W. Clover.

Story On Opposite Page

The Marginellas of Southeast Asia

by Phillip W. Clover, Glen Ellen, CA.

The *Marginella* distributed in Southeast Asia are a small group of closely related species. Most are in the Subgenus *Cryptospira*. All are grey in color and a few have color patterns.

The species illustrated and described here cover the larger Southeast Asian *Marginellas*. There are a number of 2-4mm sized species from this geographical area, which will be covered in my up-coming book on the *Marginellidae* of the World. The descriptions of these eight species will be helpful in separating their closely related shells.

Marginella dactylus Lamarck, 1822, is a large slender shell, grey to brown in color, with a narrow and full length aperture. There are five teeth (columella folds) set in the lower third of the aperture. The outer lip is smooth, reflected, and the spire is not visible. It is found mostly by dredging in grey mud and silty bottoms off Java and Thailand. The average size is 22-28mm.

Marginella elegans Gmelin, 1791, is probably the best known and most beautiful of all the Margin shells. It can be separated from its closest relative, *M. strigata* Dillwyn, 1817, by its dark red-orange lip, and consistent six teeth [*M. strigata* always has five]. The body color is grey to blue with a pattern of dozens of fine bands that appear to form parallel lines, both horizontally and vertically. It is collected in sand and mud from low tide to 10 meters around Burma, Vietnam and Singapore. The size of adult shells varies from 20-42mm.

Marginella glauca Jousseaume, 1875, is another all grey shell, ovate in shape with five teeth taking up over half the columella wall. The spire is low, the outer lip heavy and reflected [folded back on the body whorl] with fine serrations within the lip. This shell is much like a small unicolored *M. strigata*. It is taken from dredgings of South India to Singapore. The average size is 19-25mm.

Marginella quadrilineata Gaskoin, 1849, is a slender elongate shell, grey in color and similar to *M. dactylus*. It differs by having only four teeth, small size, and a color pattern of four reddish-brown bands equally spaced around the body whorl [hence its name]. It has a smooth outer lip and the spire is not visible. It is dredged off South Palawan and North Borneo. The average size ranges from 17-25mm.

Marginella scripta Hinds, 1844, has a small shell, is ovate, spire low, and has five teeth covering over half the columella. The outer lip is heavily reflected and serrated within. The color is grey, with about 20 wavy black bands running the full length of the shell. It is taken in dredgings off the Andaman Islands and Celebes Island. This is the smallest of this group, and the most difficult to obtain. The size is 6-12mm.

Marginella strigata Dillwyn, 1817, is a large shell with a beautiful color pattern like *M. elegans*. The outer lip is light orange in color, and always has five teeth. The spire is just visible, outer lip havy, feflected and serrated within. This species has been over named, and has many synonyms. It has a wide range from Vietnam to Northwest Burma, from low tide to 20 meters. It varies in size from 22-44mm.

Marginella tricincta Hinds, 1844, is almost oval in shape, all grey in color, with three reddish-brown bands within the aperture as the name implies. Some fresh specimens show the bands around the outside of the body whorl, but they often fade. It has 6 teeth on the columellar, outer lip heavy, curved and quite smooth. The spire is not visible. It is found from low tide to 50 meters, mostly in mud from Taiwan to Singapore. Its size is from 19-27mm.

Marginella ventricosa G.Fischer, 1807, is large, heavy and grey in color. The spire is just visible, with five to six teeth with the upper most one forming a rib part way around the body on adult shells. The outer lip is heavy, reflected and smooth. This is another species with at least 6 synonyms. It is taken from dredgings in course gravel around Sumatra, Singapore and Thailand. Its size varies from 20-32mm.

Speaking of. . .Con't from Page 3

Festilyria ponsonbyi (E.A. Smith, 1901). It measures approximately 65mm in height and shows remarkable color and pattern in spite of the fact that it was collected *ex pisces*. This species is found in the waters off Durban, South Africa and is most often collected *ex pisces*. A few living specimens have been dredged at depths between 20 and 50 fathoms. A live specimen complete with operculum is illustrated in Weaver and DuPont on plate 21, figures *E* and *F*

The overall color of this *Festilyria ponsonbyi* is orange and the whorls are girdled by cream bands, singly or in pairs. These bands are broken into a brick-like appearance by fine irregular orange/brown lines. The callus is far less produced than in *F. festiva* and is cream in color, the interior of the aperture is flesh/pink and the lip is striped cream and orange. The tubercles on the shoulder are sharp and are red/brown at their tips. The fasciole is orange/cream, which is to me the quickest way of separating this species from the closely allied *Festilyria duponti* Weaver, 1968, which has a black fasciole. Several other characteristics separate these species, too, but the above is my guide.

In researching this article, I came across an error in Brian Kensley's "Sea-Shells of Southern Africa: Gastropods." On page 183 of this work the numbers of the figures 689 and 690 are unfortunately reversed. Following the text on page 182, the shell illustrated as *Lyria* (sic) *ponsonbyi* (Smith) #689 is *Lyria queketti* (Smith) #690, and vice versa.

If you desire information on the two species of *Festilyria* not discussed here are directed to the excellent treatment of this entire genus in Weaver and DuPont's "Living Volutes," 1970 (375 pp, 79 color plates, 43 figures).

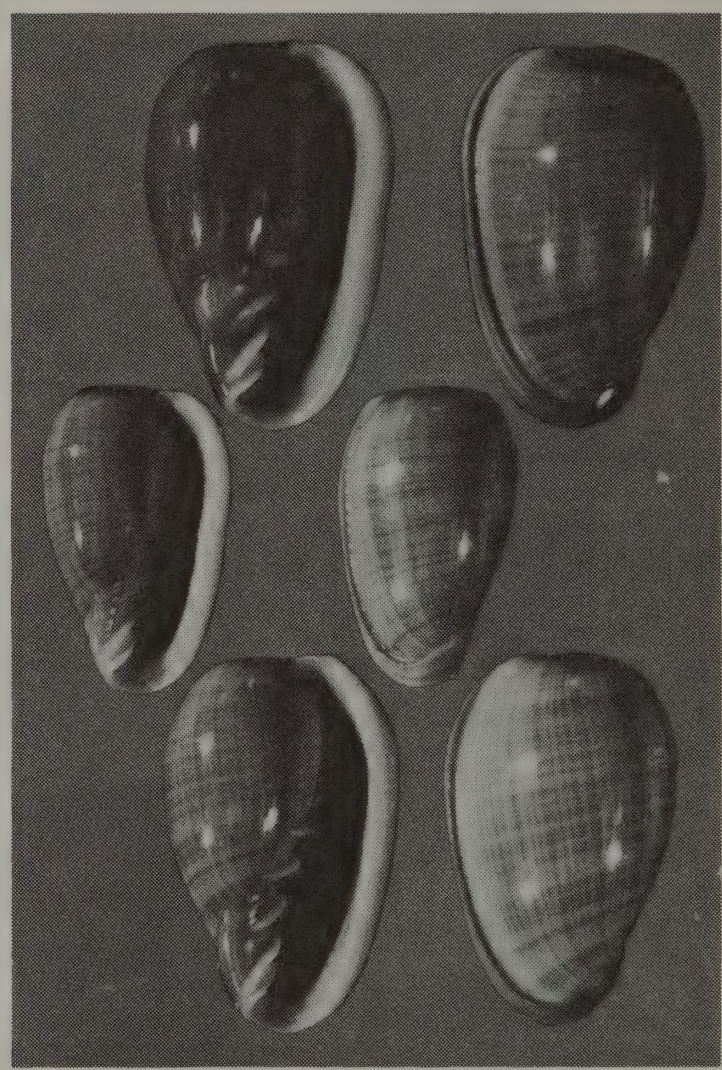
[Originally appeared in the New York Shell Club Notes, No. 271, April 1981. The dorsal view of each species was added for this re-printing.]

A Marginal Margin Shell

The three illustrated specimens are what appear to be *Marginella strigata* Dillwyn, 1817. They match the description of the species in all aspects except that the typical wavy axial lines are devoid on these specimens. [See page 6 of this issue for more on *M. strigata*.]

These odd color forms have fine bands encircling the body whorl -- Specimen #3 has parallel axial lines crossing the encircling bands, which gives the appearance of it being a *Marginella elegans* Gmelin, 1791.

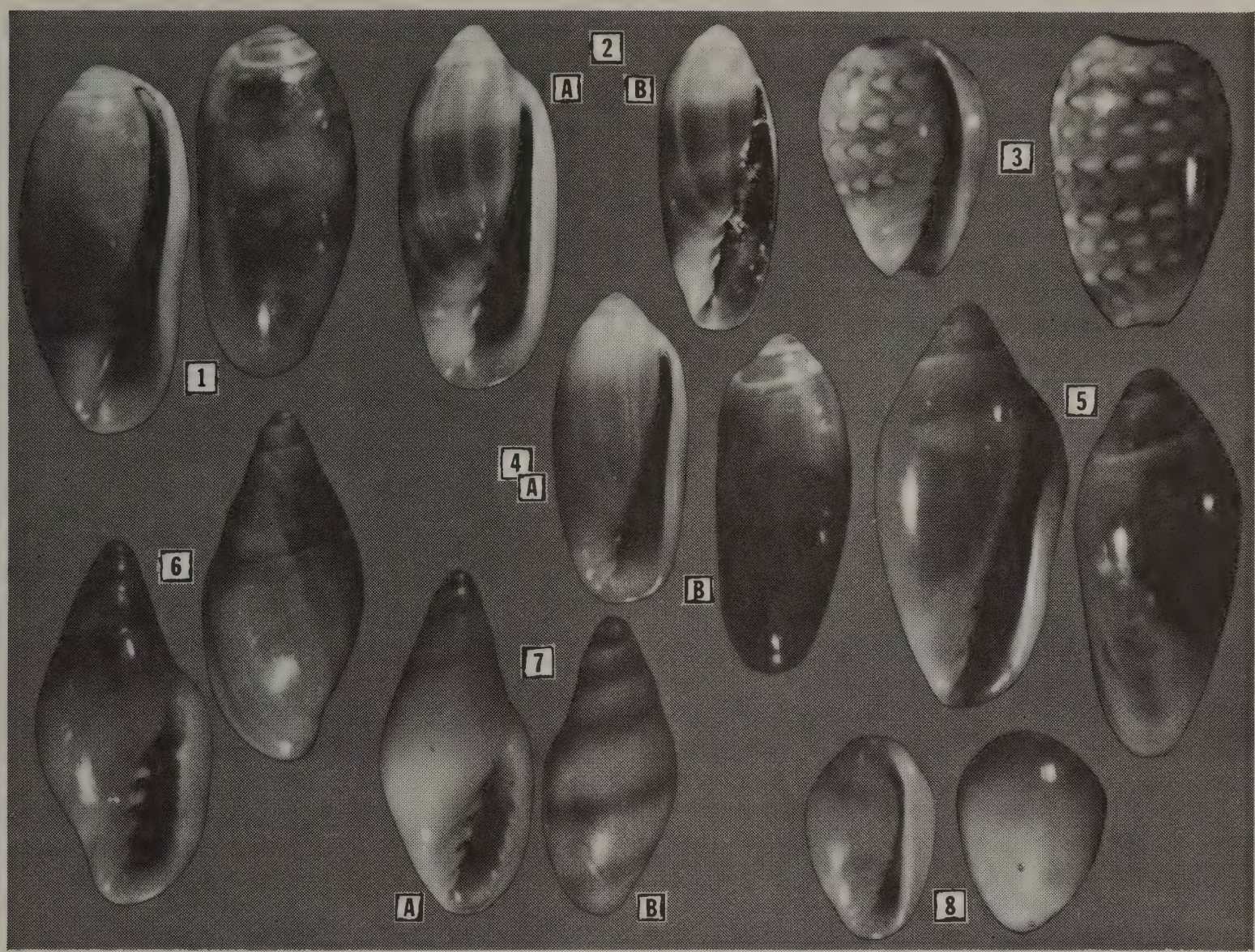
The color on all three specimens is grey, with darker grey bands. The outer lips are pale orange/yellow, serrated within, heavy and reflected. The columella on all three have five teeth, as in typical *M. strigata*. They were trawled in Northern Malacca Straits. Molluscan species found at the ends of geographical ranges sometimes tend to be non-typical. Even though the Malacca Straits cannot be consider the extremity of its range, it might be one theory behind these odd color patterns.



Marginella strigata Dillwyn, 1817 -- a non-typical form trawled in northern Malacca Straits. Photo by R. Goldberg.

Micro Marginellas from Florida & the Caribbean

photos by Richard Goldberg



1] Hyalina lactea (Kiener, 1841)- Providenciales, Turks & Caicos- both 8mm; 2a & b] Hyalina avena (Kiener, 1834)- Duck Key, Florida Keys- b. specimen with immature lip- 11mm & 9mm; 3] Persicula catenata (Montagu, 1803)- Key West, Florida Keys- 4mm & 5mm; 4a & b] Hyalina avena (Kiener, 1834)- Big Pine Key, Florida Keys- a. specimen white 11mm, b. specimen orange 12mm; 5] Hyalina avenacea (Deshayes, 1844)- Key West, Florida Keys; both 8mm; 6] Dentimargo eburneola (Conrad, 1834)- Tampa Bay, Florida- 7.5mm & 7mm; 7a & b] Dentimargo aureocincta (Stearns, 1872)- Tampa Bay, Florida- a. specimen an unbanded form called immaculata Dall, 1890, 4.7mm, b. specimen typical 4mm; 8] Granulina ovuliformis (Orbigny, 1841)- Tampa Bay, Florida- both 2mm.

It is estimated that 80% of the known species of mollusks are under an inch or so in length. Many are difficult to see without the aid of a magnifying lens or binocular-scope. Many of these minute species are outstanding in their shape/sculpture and color patterns. Illustrated here are some *Marginellas* with adult sizes under ½ inch in length. All were collected in shallow water [1 to 2 feet of water] by either sifting sand, or turning coral rock slabs.

Some of the species illustrated here show some blotchiness in their patterns. This is due to the preserved animal showing through the thin transparent shells.

Micro photograph is a good way to record the characteristics of these tiny shells. These were photographed using a bellows [extended to its fullest] and a 50mm F2.8 lens at F16 and 1/30 sec. shutter speed. They were recorded on Plus-X film.

Turks & Caicos. . .Con't from Page 12

crusted sand and faded shells half buried among the Sea Oats - Fairyland - surrounded by aqua-blue, turquoise green water. It stretched for more than 15 miles and I had it all to myself -- Peace!

The shelling schedule was very well organized. Morning and afternoon excursions to well researched areas. Sad to say, we didn't fill our collecting bags, but it's the "hunt" that makes the trip worth while and everything you see is truly a "find." The daily cocktail hour conference (after collecting and before dinner) gave us all a chance to discuss these "finds" and show off our treasures.

The shallow water at Long Bay was ideal for rock turning and snorkeling for shells. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

The first day shelling was at Blue Hills, on the north-westerly side of Provo. Snorkeling was fun, but mostly small and micro species found. The locals had prepared lunch for us at "Henry's - The Roadrunner," a local eating spot just opposite the beach at Blue Hills, and were putting their best foot foward. They live off the sea and very generously provided chicken for out fare -- It figures!

I'd have to consider our boat trip to Water Cay and a group of unnamed (charted A, B, & C) islands, the highlight of the four days. Water Cay (pronounced Key) was known to have two foot long Iguana and some of our group saw them. All the islands were fascinating in their stark emptiness and when a tropical storm broke, we all had the opportunity to understand the desolation of an uninhabited island. Nothing -- Silence. We took refuge in the water, under rock ledges and huddled against our boat, watching the wind and rain angle over us! Probably the closest I've ever been to *FEELING* like a "Seashell." It was extraordinary and of course the rock island (still don't know if it was A, B, or C) came to life after the storm. The dust has been washed away leaving the periwinkles and rock snails , limpets and chitons in full view, filling every groove and crevice. The sea urchins, anemones, tiny crabs and starfish seemed to have shaken loose and the amount of movement had a ripple effect. Shells were actually walking across the rocks (I picked off a *Cittarium pica* - couldn't resist) where a moment before it was desolate. There was life in abundance. The rain stopped. The sun came out. We got back into our boat and left. And the isolation and anonymity returned to the islands.

On the last morning we went to Long Bay, an area that had been the local conch waters. The shallow waters were filled with sizable empty *Strombus gigas* (which are thrown back after the animal had been taken for food). This was common practice all over Provo, so that the mounds of empty shells (above and below the water) were not as towering as would be expected. *Cassis*, *Melongena*, *Fasciolaria tulipa*, *Murex pomum*, and a large variety of small limpets, chitons and others were taken here.

For the hearty snorkeler and diver, the afternoon's schedule was a boat trip straight out from the Hotel to a spectacular reef, ½ mile from the shore. No shells were found, but many rolls of film were shot with underwater cameras.

The best finds of the trip were found in our own back yard. The reef surround the beach on which our hotel stood was really fabulous. The *Charonia variegata*, *Cassis tuberosa*, *Conus spurius*, *Cymatium*, enormous West Indian starfish, and others were taken right there. We collected here throughout the trip between scheduled collecting trips. Land shelling in the dunes along the beach behind our hotel gave the local natives a good laugh and each of us a handful of living memories. On the low scrub we found the peanut-like *Cerion lewisi* and wrapped in the leaves of the seagrapes were found the variable and colorful *Hemitrochus gallopavonis*.

Four full days wasn't really enough, but it whet the appetite for future dreams and it rounded off a

beautiful two week vacation.
[Many of you might know Lynn as proprietress of Benjane Arts.]

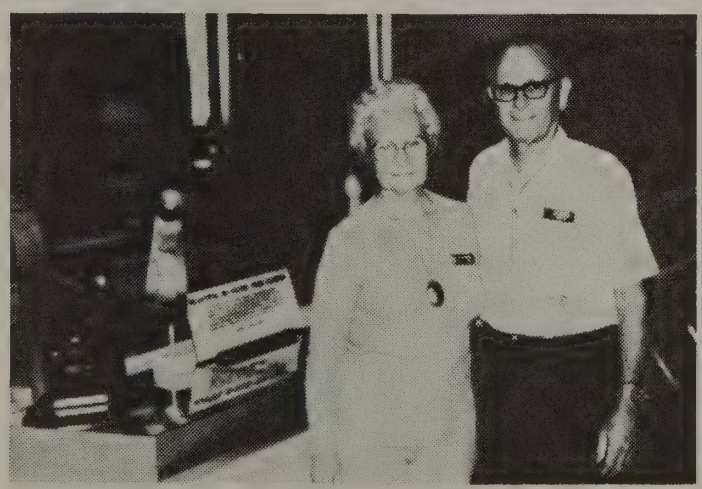
Turning rubble rocks in 10 feet of water in the reefs off the Island Princess Hotel. Some of the best collecting was done here. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

C.O.A. "Grand Trophy" 1981
(And Participating Shows)

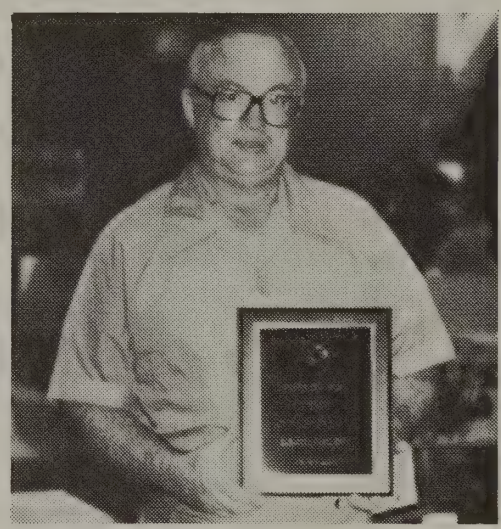
The C.O.A. Grand Trophy winner at the CENTRAL FLORIDA SHELL SHOW held in Orlando, Florida were Les and Kay Easland. Their winning display was entitled "Beautiful Bivalves from Florida." It was entered in the "One Area" Category, and was housed in 13 display cases with a total length of 30 feet.

The Easland's have won a total of five blue ribbons at five shows with this exhibit, and also the Du Pont Trophy, Exhibitors Award at the Jacksonville Shell Show; along with the C.O.A. Award, they won the Peoples Choice Trophy at the Central Florida Show.

Les and Kaye started shelling, as many have, by walking on the beach. Their interests begain to expand, and now have been shelling for about 17 years. Their field collecting has been limited to Florida waters. They have expanded their collection by trading, and house the collection in a 15' X 24' shell room at their home in Orlando. Les is an accomplished cabinet builder, and has created many fine shell cabinets for their shell room and has sold them too. The Easland's favorite families of shells are all families, large and small!



Les and Kaye Easland, C.O.A. Grand Trophy winners at the Central Florida Shell Show.



Dr. Leonell Strong displays his C.O.A. Grand Trophy Plaque, won at the Sarasota Shell Show.

THE SARASOTA SHELL CLUB held its 1981 SHELL SHOW from January 30 through February 1, at the Sarasota Exhibition Hall. The show contained over 550 feet of display area. Judges at the show were William E. Old, Jr., of the American Museum of Natural History, New York; and William G. Lyons, Supervisor of Invertebrate Studies, Florida Dept. of Natural Resources Marine Laboratory, St. Petersburg, Florida.

The Grand Trophy winner at the SARASOTA SHOW was Dr. Leonell C. Strong, Jr., of Norton, Virginia, with a display of *Cymatiidae*: Sources at the show claim Doc Strong had one of the finest exhibits of this family they have ever seen.

Shelling In The Turks & Caicos

by Lynn Rubinowitz, Hempstead, N.Y.

There was no way this could be anything but a terrific trip! All the ingredients were there -- all the signs positive! It followed directly on the heels of what was the best C.O.A. convention to date, and when I say followed on the heels, I mean it literally.

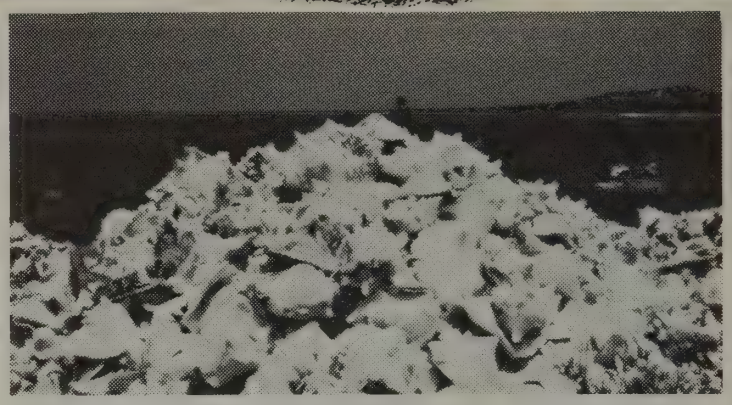
The Convention ended Saturday night in Key West with a great show and banquet, and at 6:30 A.M. we were travelling (rapidly, since it was Sunday) by car to Miami to meet Kirk Anders' tour at Carib Airlines for our flight to the Turks & Caicos Islands.

I had all the paraphernalia of my week in the Keys and at Key West divided into one very large valise and one very small over-niter. I found an empty locker at the Airport and gratefully deposited the bulk of my wardrobe and the treasures I had already collected. I knew they would patiently await my return, unless some good samaritan complained of the stench that might penetrate the metal walls.

The group -- all 21 of us met, and a more diverse group would be hard to find (even following the C.O.A. convention!). The ages went from 11 to 70+; the shapes, sizes and genders, matched! The common factor, of course, we were all "Shell Collectors" of sorts!

The flight to the Turks & Caicos was really uneventful -- unless you want to belabor the anxiety that accompanies flying in a converted twin-engine (prop type) war surplus (WW II) Cargo carrier that's been making this same three hour run every other day for the past 30 years. As the co-pilot, female, #2 of a three man crew, including a teen age stewardess said, "If she gets into the air, she'll make it" -- and she did!

Our Island destination in the Turks & Caicos group was Providenciales (or Provo), and was something else! Primative, desolate and in the simplest sense, unspoiled. All of three hotels -- the "Club" - by invitation only; "The Third Turtle" - a family fishing camp set-up; and the "Island Princess" - the newest, where we stayed, and still in the process of being built. Quite comfortable and very pleasantly lacking television, telephones and air conditioning. Every room had natural cross ventilation and an ocean view. In the heat of August, it was surprising to have a tropical windstorm blowing through your room unless you closed the doors or windows at one end or the other. A large sitting room/dining room was the core of the Hotel and the gracious family that owned the "Princess" did the cooking and set the atmosphere of genuine friendliness and informality! I must take a moment to tell you about the food. Keep in mind that this is a very "poor" island. It supports nothing -- no truck farms, no stock animals (a couple of goats), no native vegetation other than scrub catus - nothing! Everything has to be brought in from the mainland, or, it comes from the sea! So -- Have you ever eaten really fresh Conch Fritters, or chowder, or Grouper steak? To give you a better idea of how good the food was -- we had to get into the dining room early because the locals (natives), if they had the means, ate here also -- and they did! Incidentally, a new and unforgetable dessert (to me) was home-made Tia Maria Pie -- just plain lucious!



Middens of conch shells were found all over Provo, both above and below the water. Photo by Richard Goldberg.

Now that I've done licking my chops, I can reminise about my true favorite pleasure -- the beach -- and what a beach! I used the word "unspoiled" before and it fits. Clean, white and beautiful. Even the rubble washed up by the sea was clean and weathered and sun bleached. No flotsam or jetsam or the debris of humans -- no footprints and few bird tracks on the

(Con't on Page 10)

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